

# August Reader's Digest Features

## Evils of Harlem Slums on Youth

*Shake and Independent*  
*Nashville, Tenn.*  
New York—Squalor and overcrowding in New York's Harlem slums, depriving children of their natural sense of family unity, breed a lawless, wolf-pack spirit which finds expression in boy gangs who war on each other with lethal weapons and commit crimes ranging from theft to outright murder. Members of these gangs are not problem children, but children of a problem society, and frequently, as individuals, exhibit a loyalty and courage which disclose a high degree of human decency. Such are the

conclusion of Bradford Chambers whose forthcoming book on a problem which has long baffled sociologists and police is condensed in The Reader's Digest for August. *Fri. 7-30-48*

Chambers' book is the result of several years of first-hand investigation of the private and gang life of Negro and white boys in "Mousetown," as the poorest sections of Harlem are called by the boys themselves. The author, accepted by many of the youthful gangsters as a trusted friend, went into their homes, saw how they lived, talked to their parents and teachers, and tried to organize club activities to replace the lawless violence of gang wars.

Typical of the homes visited was a vermin-infested, cold-water flat into which the author was taken by a boy who lived there. The small four-room apartment housed three families. Its single bathroom, without tub, was shared by the occupants of three other flats. Chambers' young escort explained that the landlord, a white man, "knows that us colored can't move out of this neighborhood."

Denied the child's normal need of family life and security, boys join gangs as relief from the loneliness of slum existence and as protection from other gangs, Chambers concludes. Only by eliminating the living conditions which breed the gang spirit, can the gangs be dissipated. "You can't cure gangs by 'breaking them up' nor by sending individual boys to the reformatory. It's no good trying to get rid of mosquitos by swatting them; you've got to drain the swamps in which they breed." *Fri. 7-30-48*

## DR. OSUNA DEFENDS HARLEM SCHOOLS

*The Journal*  
*Puerto Rican Education Aide Denies 'Breeding Places for Delinquency' Charge*  
*New York, N.Y.*

Public schools in the Harlem area were defended yesterday by Dr. J. J. Osuna, educational consultant of the Employment and Migration Bureau of the Puerto Rican Department of Labor, against charges that they are "breeding places for delinquency."

After a personal investigation of twenty schools in sections of the city that contain heavy concentrations of Puerto Ricans, Dr. Osuna, who is former commissioner of education in Puerto Rico, declared that charges against the schools made last March in the report of the "Harlem Project" were "very unjust."

"After observing the communities where these schools are located and teachers and observing the teaching in the classrooms and the behavior of the children," Dr. Osuna said, "I have come to the conclusion that these schools, rather than breeding places for delinquency, are the very institutions which are contributing most toward the prevention of delinquency."

### Jansen Arranged Visits

Dr. Osuna's visits to the schools were arranged by Dr. William Jansen, Superintendent of Schools, with the cooperation of Assistant Superintendents Antoinette Riordan, Clare C. Baldwin and Frank Whalen. Of the schools inspected, six were in the Bronx, eight in Harlem, one in lower Manhattan and five in Brooklyn.

"In many cases," Dr. Osuna said, "I have found real devotion on the part of principals and teachers toward helping the Puerto Rican children. After hearing so much adverse criticism I was very pleasantly surprised at the intelligent way the problem is attacked and the generally sympathetic attitude on the part of the school."

Teachers of Puerto Rican children in New York would profit by more information about the difficulties of education in Puerto Rico, Dr. Osuna indicated. Teachers here, he declared, need "more information about the lack of school facilities on the island" and the problem of double enrollment caused by the "tremendous increase in population" there.

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*Call for More Coordinators*  
Stressing the need for more Spanish-speaking school-community coordinators in New York areas of Puerto Rican population, and for increased vocational guidance for Puerto Rican children here, Dr. Osuna observed:

"The majority of the boys and girls of Puerto Rican extraction will either become unskilled, semi-skilled or skilled laborers. The school should be able to guide them into vocational training in accordance with their abilities."

Dr. Osuna emphasized that Puerto Rico itself must assume some of the responsibility for the welfare of its former residents. He asserted that because of "the unusual circumstances of population, migration, language, economic status and the problems of adjustment, Puerto Rico cannot lose interest in her citizens on the mainland who may be in need."

## 19-Year-Old Called Leader Of Sex Parties

*The Courier Journal*  
*Milwaukee Police*  
*Jan 10-17-48*

*Hint More Arrests*  
*Journal-Examiner*  
Milwaukee, Oct. 16 (U.P.)—A 19-year-old Negro known as "The Emperor" was named by police today as one of the leaders in the teen-age sex orgies which have shocked the entire city.

Police said "The Emperor" contacted white girls and arranged for them to meet Negro men and youths at sex parties in his house. For short, his friends called him "Fade," Negro slang for white girl.

Guy Douglas, one of the more than 20 Negro youths, white girls, and older men rounded up by police, said "The Emperor" organized most of the parties, at which the participants smoked marijuana and indulged in perversions.

Police hinted more arrests might be in the offing.

The disclosures prompted Mayor Frank Zeidler to call on City officials, school heads, civic leaders, clergymen, and parents to meet with him "to do something about the problem."

District Attorney William J. McCauley pleaded with parents "to observe closely the activities

of your children, not only when they leave home, but with whom they are going and when they return."

## GIRLS, MEN AND BOYS SEIZED IN SEX ORGY QUIZ Confess Perversions

*Chicago Tribune*  
*and Use of Drugs*  
*Chicago, Ill.*

Milwaukee, Oct. 14 (Special)—Milwaukee police today were rounding up young white girls, many of them high school students, and Negro boys and men who were reported to have engaged in a series of sex orgies.

Some of the girls in custody, police reported, admitted smoking marijuana, and drinking beer and wine with their Negro companions. Acts of sodomy and other sex perversions were among the offenses committed, police said.

*Girl, 17, Confesses*  
A 17-year-old girl, police reported, admitted having relations with 12 men and boys over the week-end, and another said she spent two nights with a 38-year-old man, now under arrest.

Police, who refused to disclose the identity of those in custody, said the girls range in age from 15 to 17, and that the males are from 17 to 38. Indiscretions admittedly took place in parked automobiles and trucks on vacant lots and in homes of some of the boys, police said.

About 20 girls and males were brought into the safety building by 1 p.m., but police said that as many as 50 might be in custody before the roundup was completed. Several girls were said to come from well-to-do homes. They include students in Wauwatosa, Bay View, Riverside, Lincoln, and West Division High schools, the Vocational school, and Roosevelt Junior High school, it was said.

*Parents Horrified*  
Parents advised that their daughters were being held were horrified. Several told officers they were unaware of their children's actions. Juveniles were being turned over to the juvenile court. *Fri 10-15-48*  
Several of the girls held said they had met male companions in school and others at social centers. Several said they came a

considerable distance to social center dances because they were "livelier" and there was more "life." Police were having difficulty finding some of the boys, who were known only by their nicknames to the girls held.

## Hit Curfew for Detroit Youth

*Early Morning*  
*DETROIT, Aug. 3.*—Shocked citizens here protested to the City Council against the midnight curfew for all persons under 20 years of age ordered by Police Commissioner Harry S. Toy.

Tickets will be given to parents whose children are caught on the streets after the curfew. The parents will be haled into Traffic and Ordinance Court.

While Toy ordered the curfew, nothing is being done about the lack of recreational facilities, job opportunities and night school classes for Detroit's youth.

Despite the city slash of appropriations for recreation, Toy says he would ask for more money for additional police to see that the curfew is imposed. *8-11-48*

In the Negro community a virtual curfew is in practice. Negro youth and adults are picked up by the scores night after night. If a Negro and a white person are seen together in the Negro community they are almost inevitably stopped and questioned by police. *8-11-48*

Toy's proposed curfew is seen as another step in the strangling of civil rights here that has ensued since Toy became Police Commissioner. He got his appointment with the backing of a City Hall cabal of Republicans, Democrats and Americans for Democratic Action.



# Beating Delinquency With Heel and Toe

By FRANCES HERRIDGE

Mary Bruce has done more than one woman's share to sidetrack child delinquency in Harlem. Her formula is:

Teach them to dance. They all want to be famous like Bill Robinson. They even find that it's fun to work for it.

The first step toward fame is her annual recital at Carnegie Hall. Last Friday, at this year's show, 300 of her "Starbuds" — Negro children from 3 to 18 — put on a lively and well-organized production that included some ballet, a lot of tap, and a bit of modern dance, with singing and acting and elocution thrown in for good measure. Perhaps the most remarkable numbers were the precision tap dances. Imagine 50 children, some barely able to walk, keeping together on fairly intricate rhythms.

When she first came to Harlem from Chicago ten years ago, Mary Bruce hadn't thought about delinquency. She just wanted to find students, big or little. But she soon found that the adults expected dance on an overnight basis.

"They didn't want training," she told me ruefully, at the 125th Street studio. "They just wanted steps. Something they could pick up in a hurry for the next night club show. It was only the children who had time to learn technique."

\* \* \*

"Some bad boys on the street used to annoy my pupils and give me a lot of trouble. One day I said to them: 'Instead of you boys wasting time out here calling me dirty names, why don't you come in and learn to dance. You get a class together and I'll teach you for nothing.' 'You make movie stars of us,' they asked? 'Sure,' I said. And they came. But my! they were unwashed. Next time you come back scrubbed up," I told them after class, "and we will do better."

"They did fine work. I taught

them dramatics too. Some have already been on Broadway. One I gave to Helen Hayes for *Twelfth Night*, another to Canada Lee for one of his plays.

Before long the non-paying pupils made up half the school's enrollment which grew to over a 1,000.

"It was hard at first meeting studio rent," she continued. "Those who paid gave me only \$3 a month tuition. But I managed. After each recital downtown I'd get lots of new pupils. Mothers would flock in with their infants, some not yet weaned, and want me to make the kids stars. I never could resist any of them, although I wasn't supposed to take them before three."

"The first break I got for my *Starbuds* was up here at the Apollo Theatre. Michael Todd and Hassart Short saw their act one day and asked me to take over the dances for their World's Fair production *Gay New Orleans*. Then I got jobs doing night club shows. But I don't like that kind of thing. It's too coarse."

"My dream is to get a Negro concert group started that can tour the country and put on a Broadway season. I made a tiny start last year with what I called the Mary Bruce Dancerto at Carnegie Recital Hall — just myself and a small group. I'll try it again this year for maybe a week's run in a larger theatre."

Recently Mary Bruce added modern dance to her curriculum — after a summer's work at the Martha Graham studio. But her specialty is ballet and tap.

"The tap I picked up from every tapper I could get my hands on — and worked out my own system in it, easy enough for the three-year-olds. But ballet was my first love," she admitted.

"I was staying after school one day to make up a geometry exam I had flunked—that was in Chicago. Suddenly I had a vision. I saw myself teaching ballet to a thousand children. I told the teacher I had a headache and went out for a long walk. I couldn't get that vision out of my mind. I told a lawyer friend that that's what had to be. He said, 'Wouldn't it be a good idea for you to know something about ballet yourself?' So I looked in the nearest

telephone book for dance teachers. I found a Gladys Hight — and that's where I went.

"My next job was to get pupils. I had no money to advertise. I went out on the street and asked children if they wanted to dance. That was my first encouragement. They all said yes. They took me home to talk to their parents. I said it would be 25c a lesson. They agreed. I went home and rolled up the rug in my parents' parlor. But no one showed up. The only way I finally got them was to teach for nothing. Then I put on a recital and the critics liked it. So I could charge my 25c."

"When I had to come to New York, it was hard to start all over again. At first I hated New York. But now I'm getting to feel right at home."

Mary Bruce and her husband were finally able to save up enough to buy a 100 acre farm near Saugerties, New York. They are now trying to start a summer theater school there. Each weekend they pile the best pupils in a truck and take them up for a few days. A dormitory for fifty is a good start. And plenty of chickens to eat.

"I wish I had enough money to take them all. But for that I guess I'll need patience."

If you had been backstage at Carnegie Hall last Friday while she kept order among the 300 *Starbuds*, you'd know she had plenty of that.



Herridge



# SCHOOL DISCIPLINE ASSAILED IN SURVEY

4-Year Study on Harlem Finds

Methods to Curb Delinquency

'Futile' and 'Archaic'

REVISED SERVICES URGED

Attendance, Examiners Boards

Chief Targets of Criticism  
in 235-Page Report

If the menace of juvenile delinquency is to be combated successfully, New York's public school system must overhaul and expand its educational services, reorganize the recruitment of teachers and administrators and develop a social and mental hygiene program in underprivileged areas.

These are some of the conclusions reached in a four-year study of two junior high schools and an elementary school in Harlem made at a cost of \$250,000. A 235-page report made public yesterday by the sponsors of the "Harlem Project" criticized several aspects of public school methods for dealing with youthful behavior problems.

Conducted as a jointly sponsored venture of the New York Foundation and the Board of Education, the Harlem Project began in September, 1943, to investigate and analyze "problem" cases among pupils at Junior High School 120, an all-boy school at 18 East 120th Street; Junior High School, an all-girl school at 151 East 111th Street, and Public School 10 at St. Nicholas Avenue and 117th Street.

## Financed by Foundations

The project was financed by a grant of \$120,000 by the New York Foundation, \$5,000 by the Hofheimer Foundation and matching funds in services and supplies by the Board of Education. The report was made public at the home of Dr. Marian E. Kenworthy at 1035 Fifth Avenue. Dr. Kenworthy, a faculty member of the New York School of Social Work, was vice chairman of the project. Others present included Dr. Frank J. O'Brien, associate superintendent in charge of child welfare for the Board of Education and chairman of the project, and Justice Justine Wise Polier of the Domestic Rela-

tions Court, chairman of the research committee.

Agencies of the Board of Education that drew criticism in the report were the Bureau of Attendance and the Board of Examiners. The bureau was censured for using "law enforcement" methods in attempting "futilely" to deal with truancy, while the examiners were charged with having employed "archaic procedures" in the testing and screening of teacher-candidates.

Considerable space in the report was devoted to "discriminatory" attitudes allegedly shown by teachers toward their pupils and a lack of sympathetic understanding on the part of teachers and supervisors for pupils' problems. It was emphasized that the schools must find teachers who have "a real feeling for children in addition to being pedagogues." The report also disclosed that corporal punishment was a common method of dealing with unruly pupils and it attributed many disciplinary problems to a lack of adequate staff, supervisors and materials.

Without denying the fact that there could be no easy solution to a problem complicated by serious social, economic and environmental factors, the report held out the hope, however, that a "new program" tested in day-by-day trials under the most unfavorable circumstances could counteract juvenile delinquency successfully and salvage for useful social ends boys and girls who might drift into crime or otherwise become permanent misfits in society. This problem, however, was not one for the schools alone, it was emphasized. All agencies of society must cooperate to reach a solution, it was urged.

## Harlem Crowding Stressed

The report observed that in Harlem before the war, 3,871 persons lived in a single block. It added that "if we all lived as close together, the whole population of the United States could fit into one-half the area of New York City."

"Most Negroes are poor," the report said. "Job discrimination keeps them in low-paid work. But even if they can pay more rent, landlords will not rent to them—it is more profitable to keep Negroes in slums hemmed in by the walls of race prejudice."

The sponsors of the project declared that Harlem was chosen for the experiment of combating juvenile delinquency through the use of mental hygiene techniques because that area had the highest concentration of known delinquency and maladjustment. Statistics show that four Harlem schools contributed more than 50 per cent of all court commitments from the whole of Manhattan. One school had such a concentration of prob-

lems, it was said, that one child in every five was known to the court, the police or a social agency as delinquent or markedly maladjusted.

Many teachers and some school administrators made no secret of their hostility toward the project, the report said. Their attitudes toward the children often were outspokenly unsympathetic and in general they manifested impatience with the efforts of social workers, psychiatrists and others who participated in the study.

The report revealed, for instance, that corporal punishment of pupils by teachers or by other pupils with the encouragement of teachers, was common in at least one of the schools. The social workers were faced with the problem of convincing one school official that in using other means of disciplining children the project was not trying to "tear down some teachers" but to "build up" the pupils.

A concomitant of corporal punishment was the existence of gang feuds outside the schools. The reports showed that even though a police guard was necessary to prevent reprisals among members of youthful gangs, several pupils were killed mainly as a result of enmity between the "Socialistics" and the "Noble Dukes."

At Junior High School 120, which was said to have the highest delinquency rate in the city, the project reported that it had reduced social and emotional maladjustment, had diminished gang warfare and reduced physical punishment through the efforts of specially trained personnel.

## Probation as Segregation

The experiment at Junior High School 101, which had a high enrollment of "unmanageable" girls, was described in the report as a "success." The study found that probationary schools for girls were unnecessary and that their existence provided another type of segregation in Harlem. According to the report, the project demonstrated that an enriched curriculum, special services, an individualized approach and a non-punitive atmosphere gave a reasonable expectation that these girls could make a satisfactory adjustment that would hold in adult life.

The conflict between the traditional school approach to children and that of personnel trained in mental hygiene was brought into sharp focus at Public School 10, the report declared. Individual case studies offered irrefutable evidence, according to the report, that unless grade schools in underprivileged areas are helped to lighten these children's burdens there would be a continuous flood of maladjusted pupils into the

junior high schools.

## Basic Conclusions of Study

Some of the basic conclusions and recommendations made by the project committee were:

The role of the school in underprivileged areas must be extended. The philosophy of the "new program" that focuses on the needs of the child rather than requiring him to fit into a fixed pattern must be supported and implemented.

The whole plan of the junior high school set-up, which creates a feeling of instability in some children, should be reconsidered.

New and better textbooks in keeping with the pupils' capacity to comprehend must be provided. Social treatment rather than law enforcement is needed in handling truancy cases.

Additional school services such as health, recreational, social, psychological and psychiatric services are essential in underprivileged areas.

The committee made six recommendations for improved procedures in the recruiting and training of teachers and administrators. They were:

Outmoded procedures of the Board of Examiners should be changed for tests that will measure candidates' usefulness in modern education.

The emotional qualities of applicants for teaching and administrative positions should be tested with their intellectual capacity.

The overhauling should start at the beginning—at the teacher-training institutions when students apply for entrance.

Training centers should provide training under conditions like those in which teachers will work later.

Good selection of teachers should be followed by placement where abilities are used fully.

Teacher appraisal and transfer should be improved.

## Half Billion for Refunds To U. S. Taxpayers Voted

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, March 22—The House today approved an appropriation of \$500,000,000 for income and other tax refunds. It passed the measure without a record vote as part of the resolution authorizing \$55,000,000 of additional interim aid funds for Italy, France and Austria.

Less than half an hour of debate was needed to dispose of the measure, which provided also for \$125,000 for relief work among American Indians. On a standing vote and with relatively few members present, the House rejected a proposal to restore the full \$800,000,000 for tax refunds asked by the President.

## Juvenile Crime

Editor Constitution. The writer attended Booker T. Washington High School for a period of six years (1924-1930) under the principalship of C. L. Harper. During this period there was not a single act of violence on or near the campus. Several thousand colored parents now have sons and daughters attending the two colored high schools in the city, including myself.

Parental guidance at home plus correcting teachers in schools will alleviate crime among youths of all races and creeds.

The most prominent factor in any child's life is religion, Sunday School and church. Getting the right teachings in the schools is most significant.

There is an urgent need for more high schools, more parks and other recreational institutions that will take up a child's leisure. As the old saying goes, an idle mind is the devil's workshop.

Crime among youth can be stopped with parents taking up more time with their children, good Bible teachings and more thorough teachers.

ALGIA D. BARNETT, SR.

Atlanta.

## Pittsburgh Negro Project Slashes Delinquency Bills

By ARTHUR E. BROOKS

PITTSBURGH —(P)—Children in Pittsburgh's "city within a city" are saving the big folks about \$25,000 a year.

They do it by reducing false fire alarms and by curbing juvenile delinquency in other ways.

"Hill City," as the project is known, is nestled deep in Pittsburgh's predominantly Negro hill district—referred to in sociological reports as a "blighted area."

Governed by the youth of the district, under the supervision of Howard C. McKinney, founder of the agency, the "City" has its own mayor, council, judges, district attorney, police and a counterpart of every department and bureau in Pittsburgh's municipal government.

City officials say the self-government process has worked well. For instance, in addition to the \$25,000 saved by the reduction in false alarms, shoplifting in Pittsburgh stores has been reduced about 63 per cent, McKinney says. Gang activities have been cut 96 per cent, he adds proudly, and vandalism more than 60 per cent.

McKinney, an ex-city detective and a University of Pittsburgh graduate, says the main purpose of Hill City is "to make the children feel they are not outcasts of society and that America offers them a future even though they are Negroes."

Any neighborhood child can

Join Hill City officialdom, help teaching youngsters home can spend his free moments in nursing the workshop. "Much of our success in the past was due to shop work," McKinney said. "By the same means, we were able to raise the living standards in homes with the chairs, tables and other items the children made and took home." Eunice W. Cook, assistant to McKinney, aids family hygiene



# CURB JUVENILE DELINQUENCY THROUGH MUSIC



Los Angeles Committee formed to curb juvenile delinquency through music in the Los Angeles area include (reading from left to right) Leon Whaley, recreational director; Lillian Cumber, Roy Milton, L. M. White, Ben Waller, Billy Eckstine and Ella Fitzgerald (seated at desk) are honorary members.

The first affair sponsored by the group and hosted by Roy Milton and Orchestra was a tremendous success and was held at Corregidor Park, where over 3000 children were in attendance. Five hundred pounds of hot dogs and fifty gallons of punch were also furnished by the band leader for the music festival.

## Youth Called To Arms

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — (SNS) — Edward Townsend, son of the late Rev. C. C. Townsend, president of the Youth Congress of the state of Tennessee and a student of Le-Moyne College, has launched a program for the youth of his community (Binghampton) in hopes of curbing Juvenile Delinquency. He feels that this is very necessary because, after observing and intermingling with these youths, he sees increasing possibilities of infrac-tion, which are resulting from poor environmental conditions.

### "EDWARD TOWNSEND SPEAKS"

In order to better these conditions, and in turn better the youth of the community as a whole, I have called to arms the youth of Binghampton. On April 7, 1948 I, along with several youths of the community, namely; Milton West, Samuel Echols, Louis Miller, and John Smith, met at New Tyler A. M. E. Church in hope of organizing a club of young fellows which bring together as many of the ambitious youth as possible.

Mr. Louis Miller, fine young man in the community was elected the first president of the organization which is the first of its kind in the community.

(Edward Townsend) was elected vice president, John Smith, secretary and Samuel Echols was elected as chaplain all of which are doing a very fine job under the advise of the Rev. A. D. Brown advisor of the club and pastor of New Tyler AME Church.

Now, my elder friends and citizens of Memphis especially you of Binghampton, you have seen as the struggling youth make the first

step toward becoming men and women tomorrow that you can be proud of, men that will be able to be leaders of tomorrow, what are you going to do? 4-27-48

Will you let us know that you are behind us by giving us your morale and financial support at New Tyler AME Church April 25, 1948 or will you set by and watch your sons and daughters fill the ever filling pits of damnation by letting them grow morally, mentally, physically and spiritually weak.

## Mary Bruce Uses Black Dispatch Dancing to Fight Juvenile Truancy

NEW YORK — (ANP) — Fighting juvenile delinquency with dancing is Mary Bruce's manner of meeting the situation. The diminutive Harlem dance teacher, who brought 300 of her most talented pupils to Carnegie hall Sunday night, again demonstrated the ease with which she can take a group of dancing diamonds in the rough from three years old and up, and with the right amount of polishing turn them into marvels of the terpsichore.

Since coming to New York from Chicago and establishing her studio here in 1936 on West 125th street, many civic groups have cited her work as one of the influential factors that has seen the decline of juvenile delinquency in a community that heretofore had a high rate. Deputy Police Inspector Thomas Boylan once remarked that "Mary Bruce single-handed has done more with children in Harlem than anybody I know of."

An annual affair, the Starbuds revue is looked forward to each year by the more than 1,500 pupils of all ages enrolled in her busy studio. From early morn until late in the evening the flashing-eyed Miss Bruce is a picture of activity as she moves about her studio helping the students to perfect this or that intricate routine to be executed at Carnegie.

Her work of imparting some of her vast knowledge of dancing to youngsters has almost become an obsession with her. She is definitely sold on the idea of working

with all types of children as she feels that dancing develops many of their cultural instincts.

If kids are left on street corners to idle away their time, she says, they tend to pick up bad habits and the good ones never come to tl fore. But given something creative to do they spend their energies in things that are a source of pride to them. To better understanding them she enrolled in a child psychology course at Columbia university two years ago and is working toward her master's degree now. Sat. 6-12-48

To the many children rehearsing daily for the revue this isn't just another "kiddie show" to them, but is something in which they are taking part in and which they get the feeling of contributing to the arts for their own betterment. With that spirit in them Miss Bruce feels that her set goal of turning Harlem children into better citizens is slowly coming true.

## DELINQUENCY CUT BY GOOD HOUSING

Disease Rates Also Decline Survey Reveals

(Women's National News Service) Chicago, Dec. 9.—New evidence that decent housing developments cause sharp decreases in both juvenile delinquency and disease rates has been revealed here in a survey conducted by the National Association of Housing Officials. The association is composed largely of community housing authority officials.

In Cleveland, the survey showed, the highest rate of juvenile delinquency in any public housing area was 3.12 per cent. In adjoining parts of town it was 3.56 and 3.33 in two area. But two Cleveland housing developments, with 912 children, had no juvenile delinquency at all.

Philadelphia showed a delinquency rate among 3159 boys in housing projects, far below that in the city as a whole. The rate in the worst parts of town was more than three times that of the modern housing areas.

During a three-year period, the survey showed a rate of 93 deaths from tuberculosis per 100,000 among Negro tenants of Chicago housing projects. For the city as a whole the rate was 151, and for slum areas it was twice that in the housing projects.

reduced delinquency and disease disposal. The survey showed that in one through housing, but managed to save money in some unexpected ways. In New York, for example, among boys living officials reported that housing developments delivered only about half as much refuse as "tenement areas of comparable size." The developments have incinerators, and the city money in gar-



# Juvenile Delinquency Called Community, Not Race Problem

*Louisville, Ky.*  
Juvenile delinquency is a community rather than a racial problem, Dr. C. H. Parrish, chairman of the social-science department at Louisville Municipal College, said yesterday in a forum at Emmanuel Baptist Church.

The greater proportion of delinquency among Negro youngsters, he said, is due to economic conditions. *Mon. 5-3-48*

Parrish urged the use of schools and churches as community centers for recreation and other activities. He also suggested that co-ordinators be provided, perhaps by the Community Chest, "to pool the resources of each neighborhood in meeting children's problems." *5-3-48*

Emphasizing that delinquents are not a "separate species," he said: "Delinquents merely exhibit in a somewhat more marked degree the antisocial behavior tendencies that children have who are never brought before a court."

Another speaker, Judge William D. Becker of Juvenile Court, urged the school, church, and home to work "as a team" in removing delinquency. The forum was sponsored by the juvenile court committee of the Louisville Council of Churches.

*Code for the Comics*  
Critic John Mason Brown recently called comic books "the marijuana of the nursery." Psychiatrist Fredric Wertham ranked them among the chief "contributing causes of juvenile delinquency." Dis-

gusted by the sex, violence and crime they were peddling, druggists in South Bend refused last week to sell comic books in their stores. *Mon. 7-12-48*

Last week, bending before this blast, 14 major comic-book publishers (combined monthly circ.: 14 million) agreed to a cleanup campaign of their own. They set up a voluntary association similar to the movies' Johnston office, adopted a code of ethics for comic books, and got ready to name a czar. Among the code's provisions: 1) no "sexy, wanton comics"; 2) no glorifying of crime; 3) no "scenes of sadistic torture"; 4) no "vulgar and obscene language"; 5) no glamorizing of divorce; 6) no religious or race ridicule.

Critics of the comics knew that strict enforcement of these conditions would put many of the 270 U.S. titles out of business. So did the publishers who refused to join in the cleanup. (Defending sexy and sadistic comic magazines put out by Fox Features Syndicate, one of its ex-

ecutives explained his publishing philosophy last week: "There are more morons than people, you know.") *Mon.*

By the use of a "clean comics" seal and other pressures, the clean-comics group hopes to force the holdouts to abide by the code. The association's president, Phil Keenan (of Hillman Periodicals, publisher of *Crime Detective*, *Real Clue*, *Western Fighters*), warned the public not to expect overnight miracles. Because of the early deadlines, said he, improvements may not be evident for months. *7-12-48*

*Ru Albert Deutsch*

## Race Discrimination Policy Persists in N.Y. Reform School

*Fri. 7-30-48*  
(Pictures on pages 12-13.)

It is ugly as it is shocking to find a state institution which violates, in letter and in spirit, both the Constitution and specific statutes of New York State which bar racial discrimination in public agencies. It is even more disturbing when such discrimination is practiced in an institution dedicated to rehabilitating delinquent children, thus distorting at the fount the basic precepts of fair play and equal rights.

These laws are violated by a peculiar half-and-half Jim Crow practice persisting at the New York State Training School for girl delinquents at Hudson.

*Gradual Changes*  
*Fri. 7-30-48*

When the present superintendent, Miss Inez Patterson, went to Hudson in 1940, it was a 100 per cent Jim Crow institution. Negro girls were housed in Negro cottages, white girls in lily-white buildings. Instead of putting an immediate end to segregation—always a demoralizing and corrupting influence in children's institutions—Miss Patterson adopted a gradualistic approach, "mixing" the students one cottage at a time. Now there are five "mixed" cottages, and the rest are all-white or all-Negro.

While this gradualistic policy may seem reasonable enough to some folks, its effect has been most harmful. New arrivals are at once

made self-conscious about race by being given a virtual choice of moving into a segregated or mixed cottage.

The presence of mixed cottages accentuates the resentment of the Negro girls forced to live in segregated buildings. Frictions are made more acute. Apart from the important matter of illegality, there is no moral or social excuse for imposing a Jim Crow pattern on children who are supposed to be rehabilitated for good citizenship in a democratic state.

Every Negro girl I talked to at Hudson was bitterly conscious of this half-and-half policy of racial segregation. Every Negro staff member felt resentful toward it. Miss Ann Hawkins, vocational director, expressed clearly the sentiments of the staff members when, in the presence of Superintendent Patterson, I asked her:

"What do you think would happen if a fully integrated policy would be introduced tomorrow, with all racial segregation abolished?"

"Nothing bad," Miss Hawkins answered, promptly. "It would be good for the girls. Segregation in any form creates bad feelings. I don't know of a single white girl here who would resist or resent racial integration. Abolishing the remaining vestiges of segregation would lift the morale of both Negroes and whites by removing a source of never-ending friction." against mixing their white wards.

with colored girls. She had to take into account, too, she said, the possible prejudices of white girls committed to the institution.

"Following the same reasoning," I asked, "wouldn't it be logical to have segregated cottages for Italian, Polish, Jewish, Scandinavian, Catholic, Protestant, city and farm children to satisfy the assorted prejudices of particular judges, matrons and inmates?"

Miss Patterson smiled, and did not answer.

To be fair, it must be noted that Hudson is but a climactic link in a long chain of racial discrimination that adds to the juvenile delinquency toll in this state. Half of Hudson's students are colored, a figure highly out of proportion to the racial ratio in this state.

The figure does not reflect the "inadequacy" of her staff, not only in numbers but in "attitudes." She also explained that some upstate judges exerted powerful pressures

Miss Patterson, in defense of her gradualistic policy, mentioned the disproportion of child delinquency among Negro girls. It does reflect the shocking inadequacy of private facilities for Negro girls in trouble, especially in New York City, whence come half of Hudson's inmates. When a white girl gets into trouble, chances are that any number of private agencies will be available to offer her some help before she finally commits the act that sends her to Hudson. Widespread discrimination against Negro children in private agencies robs them of those extra chances at rehabilitation before Hudson gets them.

If a white girl under 16 becomes pregnant without benefit of clergy, chances are that a private agency will see her through without the stigma of delinquency being placed on the record. The chances are greatly reduced if it happens to a Negro girl, and the only state institution for girl delinquents becomes her obstetrical ward.

The discrimination is a disgrace in a private agency; it is an intolerable flouting of constitutional mandate in a public institution.





# RALPH MCGILL

## The Constitution Murder

### And a School

Atlanta, Ga.

On the day the Southern Presbyterian Church Assembly adopted a resolution in Atlanta deploring the excessive crime in the South, pointing out

that the large Negro population and its annual production of the Negro-murder-of-Negro revealed a failure of the church to reach the Negro population, two Negro boys, aged 14 and 16, were killed by rifle fire. Two other Negroes, not much older, were arrested and charged with the murder. *Thurs. 6-3-48*

The older of the two boys arrested was indicted Tuesday. The younger boy was released by police. There will now follow one of two steps. An agreement, carrying a short sentence, will be presented to the jury and court. Or the jury will hear the evidence and, if the evidence is heavily in support of intent and laying in wait, will give a relatively light sentence.

The chief reason for the shocking amount of Negro crime is to be found in the habitual attitude of treating Negro murders of Negroes as "just another Negro killing." The result is bad for the whole society of white and colored. The law-abiding, Christian Negro is smeared with the reputation of violence and the whole Negro population is regarded as lawless and violent.

But this particular killing had its inception on the campus of the Washington High School for Negroes.

**Problem** Our first day's investigation, which will continue, reveals enough evidence to warrant the statement that if the present plan to enlarge Washington High School is carried out, it will be one of the worst errors of judgment the city has ever made and will be productive of violence, disorder and shame through the years ahead. *Thurs.*

It is difficult to get at the story of Washington High School, which school seeks to care for 3,500 students and cannot do the job as it should be done. *6-3-48*

It is difficult because the faction which supported former Principal Harper seeks to discredit the present principal, Cornell. The School Board states that Principal Cornell is doing a fine job. The truer statement could be that he is trying to do a fine job and is, perhaps, doing the best he can. But neither he nor any other person could do a fine job in quarters which are inadequate and with a staff which literally is overwhelmed. Every indication yet discovered supports the belief he is trying to do a good job. The School Board has used the Harper-Cornell feud as a convenient excuse.

**Records** There are such swarms of children there that it is not possible to keep accurate records. A check of the juvenile reports shows that many children have been out of school for days and their absence has never been noted by the school. Tardiness is the rule. The 3,500 children swamp the classrooms and throng the corridors. There is not much discipline because there can't be. *The Constitution 6-3-48*

There are charges that half the faculty has grown so discouraged they no longer care or make any effort, but simply go with the current. That doesn't seem to be borne out by the facts. Admittedly there are many discouraged and frustrated. But there is evidence they would try if they could. *Atlanta, Ga.*

**Crowds** It is folly for the School Board to insist that the school goes well and that disorder is not great. The crowded conditions, exaggerated by the fact the county sends all of its Negro high school students to the two city schools, creates the inevitable "gangs" and hoodlum acts of terrorism. *6-3-48*

Thrown into the school are the children from the financially well-off Negro homes, from the middle class and from the slums of "Pittsburgh" and others like that unhappy place. *Thurs.*

About six months ago a young Negro girl was shot through the back at the school. A few days ago three young boys were brought to the Juvenile Court for being in possession of a stolen pistol. The city admits that two years ago it became necessary to place policemen at the school at recess and on release for the day. Police still drop by "occasionally." There also have been instances of delin-

quency involving vice. Things are not good there.

**Reasons** Most of this is due to the crowded conditions and the fact that children from slums and from vicious, criminal families are thrown into the classrooms. The situation is aggravated by the fact that most Negro mothers work and are not at home during the day to give supervision to their children. *6-3-48*

This situation at Washington High School is one which ought to attract the best attention of the people and the School Board. There has too long been a tendency to gloss it over as just a row between the Harper-Cornell factions. *Atlanta, Ga.*

Also, it will be almost criminally wrong to enlarge a school already dangerously expanded. It cannot function well as it is. A larger one will be worse. *The Constitution*

At a time when the pattern of separate schools is under attack we can best defend our system if we honestly meet its problems. A third high school for Negroes, on the South Side, is a necessity.



23 1948

Kentucky

# Crime and Social Work

*The Courier-Journal*  
It is easy to agree with "Teen-ager's Mother" that something should be done about the "nice places" that serve hard liquor to teen-agers, but one wonders if this distressed mother realizes that she and other taxpayers are supporting a Crime Prevention Bureau which is supposed to be staffed with social workers, trained to cope with conditions that lead to juvenile delinquency. The head of this bureau recommended the dismissal of the two police women who had social work training, because, as he stated, "They wanted to do too much social work. They were arresting too few Negro and white delinquent girls, when I know there should have been more." In other words, his obvious theory is, wait until the girl breaks a law, shatters her life, and then arrest her, but do nothing about conditions that may lead her to delinquency. *Louisville, Ky.*

Many parents were horrified at the statement, but, because of the deadening lethargy that seems to envelop Louisville, no concerted effort was made to find out why the head of the Crime Prevention Bureau stresses arresting girls after the damage is done, rather than spotting trouble areas and referring to proper authority for correction before some mother's son or daughter has fallen victim. INTERESTED.

Louisville. *Thurs. 1-8-48*



## Negro Training Plant Contracted

A \$389,135 contract for construction of a Negro boys' training school near Augusta was announced Friday by State Welfare Director W. E. Ireland. *1-17-48*

The firm of Claussen & Webster in Augusta will build three dormitories, a dining hall and kitchen, a central heating plant and other utilities to accommodate 150 youths. *Atlanta, Ga.*

Plans call for expansion of the unit later to house 300. The institution will be located on a large state-owned tract near the former Gracewood School for mentally deficient youths. *Sat.*

Youths will be brought to Augusta from the present boys' training school in Milledgeville, which the State will continue to operate for white youths. *1-17-48*

By Albert Deutsch

## How Jim Crow in Juvenile Reformatory Breeds Race Friction

You get an impressive picture of mass handling—in an institution intended for “individualized treatment” of juvenile delinquents—during lunchtime in the Ohio Industrial School for Boys at Lancaster. No less than 600 of the school's 750 “students” marched into the huge, barnlike structure they call the dining hall, lined up to serving table where other boys slopped food into their trays, proceeded to their benches and tables, ate—in sulky silence for the most part—and then marched out again.

Some of the boys didn't eat at all. I asked some of them why they didn't touch their food.

“Try it yourself.”

I did. The coffee tasted like watery mud. The main dish for the day was chili con carne. It looked unappetizing, and tasted worse. I almost broke a tooth on one of the several stones mixed into my chili. At another table, a group of boys pointed grimly to an impressive pyramid they had piled up, comprising stones carefully extricated from their food.

I noticed that white and Negro boys were segregated at different tables. Jim Crow, I learned, is the dominant pattern in Ohio institutions. I found at Lancaster, as I did at other institutions, that racial friction is highest in reform schools practicing segregation, as it is lowest in places where racial discrimination is minimized or avoided.

*Mon-3-1-48*  
Segregation Breeds  
Mutual Distrust, Hatred



Deutsch

In the huge dining hall at Lancaster, I found a classic illustration of the evil effects of racial segregation. I asked the Negro boys at one table: “Do you feel you are getting equal treatment here?”

“Hell, no,” the boys answered in unison. One summed up the feeling of the rest:

“The good assignments around here say, ‘For whites only.’ We get the lousiest cottages to live in, and the dirtiest work to do. We're just niggers, and that's how we're treated.”

Later, I talked to a group of boys at a “white” table. I asked them how they got along with their Negro fellow-students. This was their reply, in sum:

“We hate those guys. They get all the breaks.”

The supervisors are scared of them. They let them alone, and take it out on us. If we're caught smoking, we get hell. Just go into Patterson Cottage (for Negro boys), and you'll see the floors piled high with cigaret butts. The supervisors let them smoke all they want to; they're afraid to stop them.”

I did visit Patterson Cottage later; I didn't find a single butt on the floor.

Rumors of racial favoritism, in the absence of actual contact and mutual acquaintance, spread like wildfire among both groups, and occasionally flare up into mass fist fights. Col. Harold L. Hays, the superintendent, told me racial friction between the boys was a serious institutional problem.

It was the same in other institutions I studied: racial segregation invariably meant racial friction and unequal treatment. It bred the very anti-social tensions and hatreds that a good reform school should try to eliminate.

## Reformatories

### Punished for Extra Helping to Friend *Mon. 3-1-48*

In a corner of the barnlike dining room at Lancaster, I noticed six boys standing at attention with faces turned toward the wall, while their fellow-students were eating. Col. Hays explained that this was one of the school's disciplinary measures for infractions of the rules. I asked the boys, in turn, why they were being punished. One told me he had been caught giving a friend an extra helping while “slinging it out” behind the cafeteria counter. Another had talked while working on the “disciplinary squad,” violating the rule of absolute silence imposed on such work details. Others were involved in like infractions, and so they stood at attention at meal-time, reflecting on their sins as they faced the barren wall.

### Correction

In a recent column on hypnotism, I stated that the U. S. Food and Drug Administration had filed an action against the DeLuxe Record Company in connection with the sale of hypnotist Ralph Slater's record, “Time to Sleep.” The libel action was actually made against the seized records themselves and not against the company.—A. D.

John Thurmond, Denson's companion, has had part of two toes removed. *Tues. 4-6-48*

## Amputation Of Prisoner's Feet Probed

A complaint that it was necessary to amputate the feet of a 16-year-old Negro prisoner, frozen while the youth was held in solitary confinement, was under investigation Monday. *Mon. 3-1-48*

J. D. Hatchet, Assistant Director of the Department of Corrections, said the Negro, Walter Lee Denson, was given a 5-to-10-year term for burglary in Muscogee County in 1945. He was sent to a boys' training school near Rome.

Theo J. McGee, Columbus attorney, wrote Gov. M. E. Thompson asking for a “careful investigation and explanation.” The Attorney said he was acting as counsel without fee for the Negro's mother.

J. T. Mays, Superintendent of the Georgia Juvenile Training School where Denson was confined, said doctors reported that Denson placed a cord around his legs, causing them to swell. Mays said prisoners occasionally resorted to this practice in order to avoid work. *Atlanta, Ga.*

Mrs. Louise Blalock, member of the Board of Corrections, said Monday that C. A. Williams, Director of the Department of Corrections, and three members met in Rome last week to begin an investigation of the case. The inquiry has not been completed. A report may be made at the meeting of the board next Monday.

At the hospital in Augusta, doctors said half of both of Denson's feet had been amputated and that



# The 'Duke' Bullies and the Bullied 'Sanks' at 'Filthy-Dirty' Boonville

*Wed. 3-10-48*  
The shocking revelations of conditions at the Missouri Training School for boy delinquents at Boonville, as noted here yesterday, has become a major political issue in Harry S. Truman's home state, following the strangulation of two inmates. The institution is now being administered and patrolled by gun-toting state troopers. A sweeping legislative inquiry on the scandal is now in progress. Governor Phil M. Donnelly and his followers blame conditions on the superintendent, the state director of training schools and the bipartisan state board of training schools—all of whom he recently ousted.



Deutsch

The Governor's opponents lay the major blame on what they call the state executive's obstructionist tactics toward moves aimed at improving the institution—they also charge him with personal pique at the state training school board for having fired his family-church minister as superintendent of Boonville, a post to which the Governor appointed him.

While the air is bitter with mutual recrimination, no one denies that conditions at Boonville are shockingly bad. The Governor claims that bad conditions were made worse by the officials he recently ousted; the opposition claims that bad conditions were being gradually improved by these people.

Last month Gov. Donnelly ordered the state troopers to investigate conditions at Boonville. The resulting report—a 30,000 word document—placed chief blame on the officials ousted by the Governor. The report was grossly biased in assessing responsibility, but the general description of basic conditions contained in the report was not challenged. Here are some excerpts digested from that report:

¶ Guards hired at the institution were thrown into their jobs cold, with no instructions as to their duties. "The present salary scale is so low that it does not attract the proper individuals, especially the guards who receive a salary of \$130 a month, plus the usual subsistence." There is an acute shortage of guards, and the greatest personnel turnover.

¶ As a result of this shortage, some guards had to work double shifts. Teachers at the school were commandeered to work as guards on week-ends.

¶ One administrative employe told the investigators: "This institution is a damned mess—the personnel fussing and fighting among themselves, the inmates fighting among themselves, and no control whatever."

¶ A so-called "self-government" system among the inmates was in reality a hierarchy of the bullies and the bullied. The stronger, older and more unscrupulous inmates formed themselves into "leader" cliques and called themselves the "Dukes." At the other end of the scale in the inmate "companies" were the weaker boys, known as the "Sanks," which was short for sanctified. The Sanks were under the virtually totalitarian control of the

Dukes, forced to carry out their every order and often bullied into homosexual relationships.

¶ Dormitories were found to be "filthy dirty," with cockroaches visible from every angle. Windows were broken out, window sills were rusting; ceilings, floors and walls were unpainted and caked with dirt; toilets were in "horrible condition," plumbing everywhere was leaking and in disrepair. The kitchen and mess halls were described as filthy. "Large cockroaches throughout the entire Negro mess building were seen along the edges of the tables, chairs, steam radiators, steam pipes, baseboard in the kitchen and around the food dispensers and in the storage room. . . . Open-top garbage cans (adjoining the kitchen) attracted bugs and cockroaches."

¶ Dormitories for Negro inmates at the Jim-Crow institution were found to be firetraps, with rotting wooden floors, plumbing fixtures "all in extremely bad condition." The institution's school building is also a firetrap.

¶ "Inmates in all companies stated they had nothing with which to occupy their time while confined inside their barracks. . . . Two Negro companies had nothing in the form of outside recreation—all they had was time on their hands."



23 1948

# PRIZE FUND DONATED BY MRS. ROOSEVELT

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt has contributed \$2,500, comprising her share in the M. Carey Thomas prize from Bryn Mawr College "for distinguished achievement in international relations," to the current Wiltwyck Aid to Youth fund-raising drive for \$1,000,000. It was announced yesterday.

Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt, chairman of the 1948 Wiltwyck fund-raising campaign, said at its headquarters in the Astor Hotel that the school, conducted for delinquent boys from 8 to 12 years old remanded there by the city courts and Department of Welfare, was currently starting its first public appeals, to be conducted over a three-year period.

Wiltwyck School is located at Esopus, N. Y., across the Hudson from Hyde Park. It received close support from Mrs. Roosevelt and the late President Roosevelt. Mrs. Roosevelt has been active in the school for six years, serving as a member of its inter-racial, inter-faith board of directors. Mr. Vanderbilt said. She is serving as co-chairman of the executive committee for the Wiltwyck School drive.

The Thomas prize, considered Bryn Mawr's highest award, was given jointly to Mrs. Roosevelt and Miss Anna Lord Strauss, president of the National League of Women Voters, on March 11.

Mrs. Roosevelt made no reference to her donation when she spoke yesterday at a luncheon for the Wiltwyck School drive at the home of Mrs. Marshall Field, 740 Park Avenue, co-chairman of its special events committee. She emphasized that with the whole world looking to this country, it is particularly important to show that a democracy can solve its problems at home.

Reformatories (New York)

## Deutsch: 'Solitary' Warps Girls in Reform School



The Hudson school has no psychiatrist. Instead of psychiatric treatment, emotionally disturbed children at the school are locked up in the discipline cottage—like this.

STAR photo (above) and pictures on pages 14-15 by Marion Palfi  
By ALBERT DEUTSCH

To the eyes of the casual visitor, it looks more like a boarding school than a so-called "reform school." It is pleasantly located in the country, a few miles from the city of Hudson, overlooking a wide and lovely sweep of the Hudson River Valley. There are acres of spacious lawns, tree-lined walks and two huge quadrangles of handsome red-brick buildings, fifteen of which are "cottages" housing the girl "students." The stone walls and iron grills along the road leading to the New York Training School for Girls are so well ap-

pointed that they look more like decorations than institutional fences, and a large area surrounding the school has no fences at all.

### Significant Lack of Tension

As state institutions for girl delinquents go, the Hudson school ranks among the better ones. There was a significant lack of tension among most of the 235 "students" there on the day of my visit two weeks ago, accompanied by photographer Marion Palfi. The girls were not nearly as regimented and routinized as the inmates of other in-

stitutions I had visited. They did not have to march hither and yon. They did not seem to be subjected to repressive periods of long silences. They were not ruled by a martinet.

The superintendent, Miss Inez Patterson, greeted us warmly on our arrival, answered questions frankly, and showed us the worst aspects of the institution, along with the best. Miss Patterson is a Minnesotan who headed a girls' reform school in her native state before she was called to Hudson eight years ago on the heels of an institutional scandal involving gross racial discrimination and general demoralization at the New York State school.

### Bias Still Present

That discrimination, regretfully, has been only partly eliminated, while institutional morale is far from reaching satisfactory levels. For the good at the Hudson state school is not good enough and the bad is a shocking reflection on the wealthiest state in the union, and on its avowals concerning social welfare and civil rights.

Hudson is the only state training school for girl delinquents in New York. Two others for boys are maintained at Warwick and at Industry, near Rochester. The Hudson school receives girls aged 12 to 16 who are committed by children's courts, and also takes girls under 12 who have committed offenses that would be adjudged felonies if perpetrated by adults. It can keep them up to 21 years of age, although very few of the girls are over 18. The average age of the students is 15 years, six months, and the average time of stay at Hudson is 18 months.

I was impressed with some of the programs at Hudson, notably the vocational training program, which does not teach specific trades (the girls are too young to learn special industrial or business skills) but attempts to train the students in good work habits at home or in industry. I found cottage life spotty, with morale high in some—especially those with understanding and loving "house-

I found no evidence of corporal punishment at Hudson. Girls are not beaten or whipped, as they are in some reform schools. But they are subjected to a form of punishment that is, in my opinion, more barbarous though more subtle than beatings, and far more disastrous to the child's personality. I refer to the treatment of girls who, as punishment for trying to run away or other infractions of institutional rules, are sent to the so-called "discipline cottage."

Fifteen of the 18 locked rooms in the discipline cottage were occupied on the day of my visit. With the exception of one or two, each of the confined girls represented a serious problem in emotional maladjustment. Their attempts at escape or other offenses obviously represented symptoms of these underlying emotional upsets. But instead of receiving the psychiatric counsel or treatment

they so desperately needed, they were locked up in solitary confinement for varying periods of time. One of the girls had been locked up for 81 days in her little solitary room, save for periods during the day when she was let out into the corridor to help sweep or scrub the floor.

### Bread and Milk Diet

Each girl, for the first 10 days regular. It appears that if she re-

extending into months is contrary to all enlightened precepts of institutional treatment of juvenile delinquency. It only deepens the emotional disturbance; it does not mitigate it. It tends to freeze the soul of the already maladjusted



child instead of warming it by the tender love and understanding care it so badly needs.

### Increases Warping

On those occasions when it does seem to "break the spirit" of the unruly child, long-extended solitary confinement is in reality only further warping an already distorted outlook. It dams up the unhealthy resentments and suspicions toward society and authority, only to have them loosed later in the normal community.

It is an astounding fact that New York State's only institution for girl delinquents, with 235 students in varying stages of emotional or social disturbance, is lacking a single staff psychiatrist. Save for a three-month-period last year, it has been without a psychiatrist for years. During that three-month-period, Dr. J. Louise Despert, a child psychiatrist now attached to the New York Hospital and Cornell University Medical School, served as a temporary member of the staff.

### Finds Report Deficient

Several months ago, Dr. Despert wrote her experiences and observations in a blistering report published as a professional journal, *The Nervous Child*. Frankly, I found her statistical records and case findings deficient in clarity or comprehension, but, with slight modification, I can subscribe to the following passage from her report:

"In certain cases, when the deviation of accepted standards of behavior is considered serious enough, isolation is used. The cottage used for this purpose has come to be known as the 'punishment cottage.' Strange as it seems, a youngster is isolated in a room and kept on a diet of bread and water for variable periods of time as reported by the students."

### Psychiatrist Pay Low

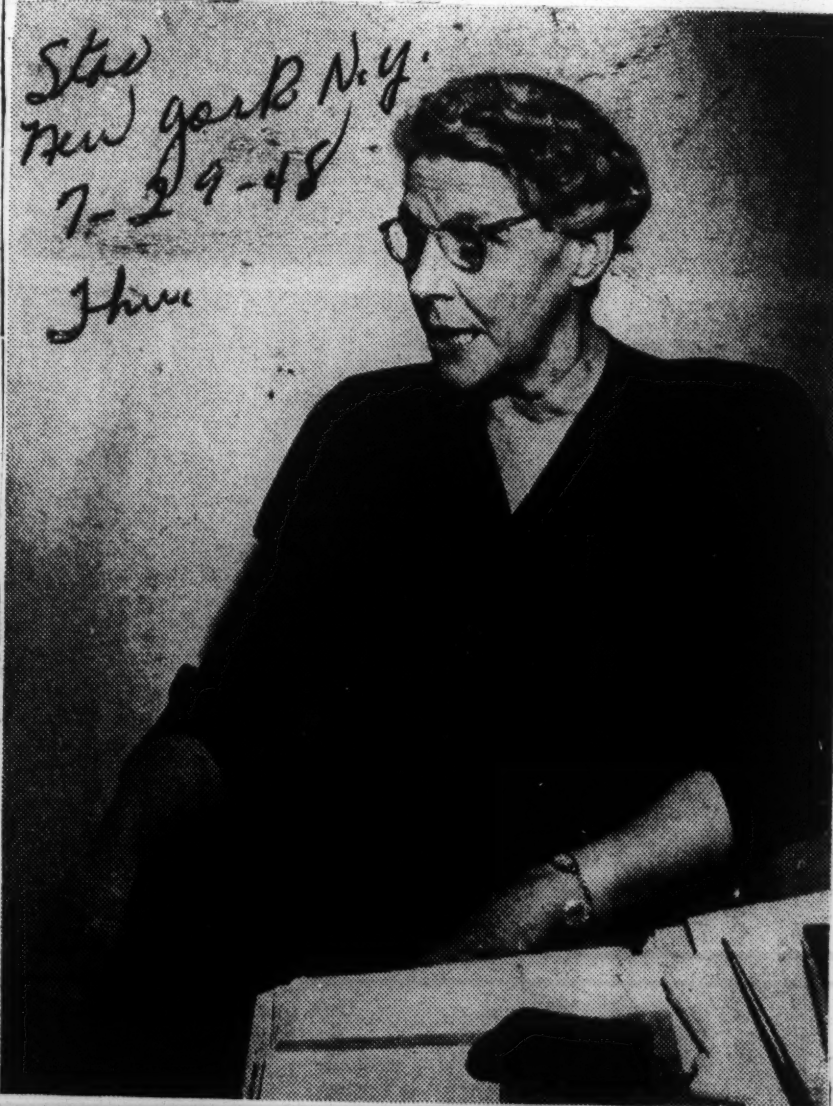
Miss Patterson told me she had sought desperately for a full-time psychiatrist without success, largely because of the low pay offered. Now she hopes to get a part-time psychiatrist, within a few months, at \$3000 a year, through the co-operation of the near-by Rip Van Winkle Clinic.

The Hudson school is also desperately short of social workers. These professionals are vital to a training school staff as friendly consultants on social problems to the juveniles and as active links between them and their families and communities.

### Need 4 Times as Many

There are only two social workers at Hudson. Miss Patterson estimates that at least one social worker is needed for every 35 inmates to handle the job adequately. That means that Hudson needs eight-four times the number now employed.

"I have repeatedly requested at least three more social workers," Miss Patterson said. "Commissioner Lansdale (the state social welfare commissioner, whose department supervises the training schools for delinquents) is favorably inclined, but my request is vetoed by the State Budget Bureau every time. It does not understand the need for social workers; apparently regards them as frills. If I asked for more disciplinarians, I might get them quick enough."



Mrs. Inez Patterson

Superintendent of Hudson State Training School

### Proves Schools

### Can Restore Lost Slum Children

NEW YORK—A four year experiment in three Harlem schools, which ended last week has proved

conclusively that in spite of bad economic conditions, schools can reduce delinquency, maladjustment and restore problem children to normal lives.

The \$250,000 project which began in 1943 was under the auspices of the New York Foundation, Hofheimer Foundation, Board of Edu-

cation, two Domestic Relations Court Justices and several citizens.

A 255 page report on the project criticized punitive and discriminatory practices in the educational system and outlined a program consisting of new teaching methods, carefully selected teachers, individualized teaching, recreational facilities, special case work, psychological and psychiatric services and a community program.

The schools involved were two junior high schools—one for boys and one for girls and an elementary school.



LAWYERS



# Tough Alabama System Checks Race Lawyers

*The Courier*  
*Pittsburgh, Pa.*  
*Sat. 7-10-48*  
MONTGOMERY, Ala.—Only four of the 1,584 licensed lawyers in Alabama are Negro barristers. The total number of lawyers is distributed over 126 cities in contrast to the four Negro attorneys being scattered over two cities.

Birmingham has three of the licensed Negro lawyers—Arthur D. Shores, Oscar W. Adams Jr. and Peter A. Hall, with Charles V. Hendley, Grand Master of the Masonic order, established in law practice at Huntsville.

The limitation of Negro lawyers is due to three factors:

1. Alabama does not provide legal training for Negro students.

2. The Alabama Bar Association a few years ago abolished reciprocity. (Lawyers who have practiced in other States no longer can come to Alabama and have licensed issued upon their legal experience.)

3. The bar test in Alabama is one of the stiffest in the Nation.

Graduates of the University of Alabama Law School are issued licenses upon graduation by the Alabama State Supreme Court without requirement of the bar quiz. On July 1, forty BALS students were licensed.

There are an estimated thirty Negro students from Alabama studying law in other States. Three others have reportedly applied for admission to the University of Alabama Law School this year.



## BAR GROUP ADMITS NEGRO

### McClain, Rejected in Cincinnati, Is in American Association

SPECIAL TO THE NEW YORK TIMES.  
CINCINNATI, Sept. 9.—William A. McClain, a Negro, to whom membership in the Cincinnati Bar Association was twice denied, has been admitted to the American Bar Association, it was learned today. He is an assistant city solicitor and a veteran of the second World War.

"Admission of Mr. McClain to the American Bar Association highlights the prejudice of the small minority in the Cincinnati Bar Association," said Paul W. Steer, who resigned more than a year ago as treasurer of the local association in protest against the group's failure to admit Mr. McClain.

## LIBERTY WHITTLED, HEAD OF BAR WARNS

### Holman Deplores 'Government by Crisis'—ABA Delegates Approve States' Rights

By LAWRENCE E. DAVIES  
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

SEATTLE, Wash., Sept. 9.—"Government by crisis" was deplored tonight by Frank E. Holman of Seattle, as he assumed the presidency of the American Bar Association at the annual dinner concluding its seventy-first convention.

"This country, he told fellow members of the bar, had 'suffered much' through this method of government in recent years. Public officials, he said, had 'too easily fallen into the habit of asserting that some crisis exists which justifies extraordinary and extra-legal procedures.'"

"We have noted," he added, "that almost invariably these 'temporary' expedients tend to become permanent."

Mr. Holman observed that Americans "respond magnificently" in time of war but he warned that in time of peace "we often permit our rights and liberties to be whittled away."

"We have taken free government for granted and in doing so have already lost some considerable measure of our independence and dignity as individuals," he went on. He advised the lawyers that their obligation transcended their role of representing clients.

**Resolutions Are Approved**  
"The lawyer must stand ready,

fearlessly and unselfishly," he said, to rally to the defense of our kind of Government and its institutions. As grave national and international issues arise, he must be prepared not only individually, but through the organized bar, to defend and preserve liberty under law. Liberty under law means not only that your acts and mine shall conform to law, but that all public officials from the highest to the lowest shall likewise conform to law and serve within the spirit and the intentments of our form of Government."

The House of Delegates, the association's legislature, at its final session approved resolutions passed on to it by the General Assembly, one of which was a "state's rights" statement inveighing against further extension of Federal powers, any increase in "centralized bureaucracy of the Federal Government" and "further squandering of Federal funds for unconstitutional purposes." It was introduced by Judge Hutton W. Sumners of Texas.

Another, by Edwin M. Otterbourg of New York, followed up earlier anti-communist resolutions and put the association on record as opposing membership for any lawyer who "publicly or secretly aids, supports or assists the world Communist movement to accomplish its objectives in the United States." After sharp debate the House deferred until its midwinter meeting action on a resolution which, in effect, would support the principle of individual responsibility underlying the war crimes trials and would recommend to the United Nations that it take steps to establish tribunals and enforcement procedure, including necessary police forces for future use.

## NBA Commends

## Civil Rights Plan

ATLANTA — After re-electing the president, the National Bar Association on Saturday battled and deadlocked over the resolutions, but finally pushed through a resolution commending President Harry S. Truman for urging Congress to enact legislation to carry out the recommendations of his committee on civil rights.

A bitter floor battle failed to gain a two-thirds majority vote necessary to delete Mr. Truman's name from the resolutions on civil rights.

The group split wide open on the Taft-Hartley law.

### Officers Named

Other officers elected were Loren Miller, Los Angeles, first vice-president; Harold Flowers, Pine Bluff, third vice-president; Scovel Richardson, St. Louis, secretary;

## American Bar Association

Lucia Thomas, Chicago, assistant secretary, and John A. Hibbler, Little Rock, treasurer.

Elected to the executive committee were Mrs. Georgia J. Ellis, Chicago; Francis Dent, Detroit; Peter Boulton, Cleveland; Carol A. Johnson, Kansas City, and Webster Porter, Knoxville. Indianapolis, Ind., was selected as the site for the 1949 convention.

Some 400 lawyers gathered for the 23rd annual session of the NBA. Meetings were held in the Butler Street YMCA and Wheat Street Baptist Church.

### Lawyers Told Duty

Speaking at a luncheon meeting at the church, Judge Irving C. Mollison of the U.S. Customs Court, Chicago, told the members they should handle civil rights cases as a matter of duty to community, country and their profession.

Deploping the denial of ordinary civil rights upon colored citizens, he asserted that the fulfillment of democratic ideals depends upon the rights of all Americans regardless of colored, race, creed or ancestry.

### 18 States Offer Rights

The jurist pointed out that 18 Northern States have civil rights statutes on their books, but that the reluctance of lawyers to take civil rights cases without a fee, is the core of the enforcement problem.

Judge Mollison declared that the area of civil rights enforcement is a fruitful field for activity by the National Bar Association. James M. Nabrit, Washington, and Amos T. Hall, Okla., during their talks, attacked the Regional Educational Compact as "scheming and fraudulent."

Host to the convention was the Gate City Bar Association. Greetings were extended by Dr. B. E. Mays, president of Morehouse; C. A. Scott, T. H. Henry, attorney, Dr. William H. Borders, pastor of Wheat Church; W. E. Coghane, and Henry L. Bowden for the Atlanta Bar Association.

## Jones Heads Cook County Bar Ass'n

CHICAGO, Ill. (ANP) —

Atty. Sidney A. Jones Jr., was elected the 1949 president of the Cook County Bar association, during its annual meeting here last week. Jones succeeds retiring president, Nelson M. Willis, in the organization which represents approximately 300 Negro lawyers and a few from other racial groups in the city.

Also elected were James D. Crosson, Charles F. Lane, and Joseph E. Snowden Jr., first, second

and third vice-president, respectively; Lucia T. Thomas, general secretary; Theodore F. Crawley, financial secretary; William K. Hooks, treasurer; Carl T. Robinson, librarian, and James A. Greene, sergeant-at-arms.

Named to the board of directors were Jewel S. Rogers, Bindley C. Cyrus, William H. Huff, James B. Cashin, C. Francis Stradford, Nelson M. Willis, Zedrick T. Braden and Earl B. Dickerson.

After the meeting, the new president was host to the membership at a banquet in Morris Eat shop. Judge Wendell E. Green served as master of ceremonies.



## DOOMED WHITE YOUTH PICKS

*Fri 9-24-48*  
 NEGRO LAWYER

*New York Age*

Los Angeles, (NPB)—In a move unprecedented in the annals of California's legal history, a white youth, 21-year-old Daniel Jerome Zetzke, this week retained the services of Atty. Walter L. Gordon, Jr., in an effort to escape death in San Quentin's lethal gas chamber.

Zetzke has been convicted of murder last May 13th by a Pasadena jury for the slaying of his roommate, Charles Wayne Dwyer, on the morning of Jan. 13, 1948. At the time of his trial he was represented by white Attorneys Gladys Towels Root and Eugene V. McPherson.

During the trial, Zatzke contended that he had slain Dyer with a hammer because the latter made improper advances towards him on the morning of the slaying. Evidence produced at the trial revealed that Zatzke had taken the dead man's automobile after the killing and forged ownership papers and sold it for a large sum of money. The prosecution contended that robbery was the motive.

This is the first time in this state a white person has retained colored counsel to represent him after the death penalty had been inflicted, Gordon told reporters that he had read the trial transcript and felt confident that he would secure a new trial before the State Supreme Court.

It will be recalled that Gordon was retained by Antonio Mendez, a Negro of Brazilian descent, to represent him for the slaying of his white par amour, Jean Farrington, in 1944 after he had been sent-

enced to death. Gordon twice carried Mendez's case before the high courts and after the sentence was commuted to life imprisonment.

## CHICAGO JURISTS PAY HONOR TO CLEVELAND'S NEGRO JUDGE

Judge Perry B. Jackson of Cleveland, Ohio, the first Negro jurist to sit in the Felony court of that city, was honored guest last week of several judges of the Municipal and Superior courts of Cook county.

Here for a short rest and visit with relatives, the Cleveland jurist sat with Judge Oscar S. Caplin in Felony court, and observed arraignment

## Named Judge In Boston Court

BOSTON — Bruce G. Robinson, chief secretary of the executive council of Boston has been appointed a special justice in the Boston Juvenile Court to succeed the late Justice Frank Levoroni.

Robinson, 41, and a native of Washington, was appointed by Gov. Robert F. Bradford. He is a graduate of Williams College and Boston University law school.

Old records reveal that at least one other Negro has been a judge in the Massachusetts commonwealth. In 1883, Gov. Benjamin F. Butler appointed George Benjamin to the bench of Charlestown Municipal Court. Rubin died three years later.

Robinson is a former assistant attorney general, and has served as assistant corporation counsel for Boston.



# Race Lawyers Seek Seat On D. C. Municipal Branch

By NNPA News Service

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The Washington Bar Association has submitted to Attorney General Tom C. Clark the names of three of its members for appointment to the vacancy on the District of Columbia Municipal Court bench.

The three attorneys are George E. C. Hayes, a member of the law firm of Cobb, Howard and Hayes; Andrew J. Howard Jr., assistant United States attorney, and Hubert B. Pair, assistant corporation counsel.

The District of Columbia Bar Association, the white group, has also submitted the names of three of its members for the vacancy. They are Milton D. Korman, assistant corporation counsel; Frank H. Myers and J. Edward Bindeman.

Justice Department spokesmen estimated that the Attorney General will have to choose from more than thirty-five candidates. His choice must be approved by President Truman, who will send the nomination to the Senate for confirmation.

The vacancy was created by the recent death of Judge Nathan Margold. At present there are nine judges and one vacancy on the Municipal Court bench.

Only one of these judgeships is held by a colored man. He is Judge Armond W. Scott who has made an enviable record since his appointment early in the Roosevelt administration.

**New Precedent Set In Naming First Negro**  
Atlanta Daily World  
Atlanta Ga.  
Tues. 4-27-48  
Young Coleman To Take Over Duties At New Court Term

By Louis Lautier  
Washington, D. C. (SNS) Justice Felix Frankfurter of the United States Court has named for the first time in the history of the court a colored youth as his clerk. The youth is William T. Coleman.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The Washington Bar Association has submitted to Attorney General Tom C. Clark the names of three of its members for appointment to the vacancy on the District of Columbia Municipal Court bench.

The three attorneys are George E. C. Hayes, a member of the law firm of Cobb, Howard and Hayes; Andrew J. Howard Jr., assistant United States attorney, and Hubert B. Pair, assistant corporation counsel.

Jr. 26, married and the father of one child. He lives at 232 West Earlham Terrace, Germantown, Pa. He is serving this year as law clerk for Justice Herbert F. Goodrich, of the Third United States Circuit of Appeals in Philadelphia, and will assume his duties as Justice Frankfurter's law clerk at the beginning of the next term of court.

Mr. Coleman did his undergraduate work at the University of Pennsylvania, receiving the Bachelor of Arts degree. He graduated from the Harvard University law school in 1946, Magna Cum Laude, and stood first in his class. He also did post graduate work at Harvard.

He served in the Army Air Corps from 1943 to 1946, coming out a first lieutenant. He is the son of the executive director of the Wissahickon Boys club in Germantown.

**Tough Alabama System Checks Race Lawyers**  
The Pittsburgh Courier

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—Only four of the 1,584 licensed lawyers in Alabama are Negro barristers. The total number of lawyers is distributed over 126 cities in contrast to the four Negro attorneys being scattered over two cities.

Birmingham has three of the licensed Negro lawyers—Arthur D. Shores, Oscar W. Adams Jr. and Peter A. Hall, with Charles V. Hendley, Grand Master of the Masonic order, established in law practice at Huntsville.

The limitation of Negro lawyers is due to three factors:

1. Alabama does not provide legal training for Negro students.
2. The Alabama Bar Association a few years ago abolished reciprocity. (Lawyers who have practiced in other States no longer can come to Alabama and have licensed issued upon their legal experience.)
3. The bar test in Alabama is one of the stiffest in the Nation. Graduates of the University of Alabama Law School are issued licenses upon graduation by the Alabama State Supreme Court.

without requirement of the bar quiz. On July 1, forty UALS students were licensed.

There are an estimated thirty Negro students from Alabama studying law in other States. Three others have reportedly applied for admission to the University of Alabama Law School this year.

6 NEW LAWYERS ADDED TO ASSOCIATION'S STAFF

NEW YORK—New lawyers recently appointed to the NAACP's national legal committee were Sidney Jones Jr., Chicago; Henry Bragg, New York; Herman L. Taylor, Raleigh, N.C.; Oliver W. Hill, Richmond, Va.; Frank D. Reeves, Washington; and Curtis Todd, Winston-Salem, N.C.

## Quits Supreme Court Bar In Protest Over Recent Decisions

WASHINGTON, D. C. — William L. Hilyer, 80-year-old Washington lawyer, quit the Supreme Court bar Monday in protest against what he called a growing tendency for the court to write its own law.

He told the press that he believed he was the only lawyer ever to resign the right to practice before the United States Supreme Court.

Hilyer said his resignation was actually caused by recent decisions of the court involving real estate covenants, but said that he had no feeling on the racial question.

ONE NEGRO LAWYER IN MEMPHIS

MEMPHIS—This city, with one of the largest Negro populations in the country, has only one Negro lawyer, A. A. Latting.

ALMA MATER TO HONOR JUDGE DELANY

NEW YORK—(SNS) Hubert T. Delany, a Negro lawyer, was named to the City College, will be honored by their alma mater at a luncheon to be held at the Waldorf-Astoria.

Delany was named to the Alumni Service Medal for "noteworthy contributions to the welfare of City College during the past year," announced Dr. Stephen B. Spivey, president of the City College.

## Franklin Higgs Passes

### D. C. Bar Examination

WASHINGTON — Franklin A. Higgs was among candidates who passed the examination for admission to the Bar of the District of Columbia.

Higgs, a graduate of Wilberforce university, received his masters degree and LL. B. degrees from Howard university. He is a member of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity, the Sigma Delta Psi Legal fraternity and Metropolitan AME church.

He is married to the former Audrey Treherne of Cape Charles, Va. and plans to enter into general practice of law in the District of Columbia.

## Third Negro admitted to Louisiana bar

NEW ORLEANS — A third Negro in 25 years was admitted to the Louisiana Bar last week. He was Edward Jackson, Baton Rouge native, who was tutored by the late Negro to be admitted to the state bar, Louis Berry, onetime Howard university law professor, now a practicing attorney here.

## Named Senior Aide To Nassau Attorney

MIAMI, Fla. — Moxie Rigby of Freeport, L. I., who worked his way through New York Law School as a waiter was appointed a senior Assistant District Attorney of Nassau County last week.

Rigby, the first Negro to hold this position in Nassau County, had been a junior assistant since 1941. District Attorney James N. Gehrig made the announcement.

Donald Murray was the first Negro graduate of the University of Maryland Law School. Winning a court suit for admittance in 1935, Murray graduated in 1938. After his graduation, efforts were made to secure graduate and professional educational opportunities for Negroes in segregated states, according to the Negro Year Book of 1947.

tage, and still others follow numerous and varied pursuits which add to their income.

While there are no figures which might give an accurate index as to their individual earnings, the best estimates indicate that few, if any, average less than \$3,000 per year from their own law practice; a good many earn upward of \$5,000 per year; a half dozen or so are in the \$10,000 class, and some have done as much as \$20,000 or more business per year.

At any rate, while law practice cannot be construed as a get-rich-quick profession, it is a paying profession in Washington and economic improvements have been noted annually as more and more people realize the necessity of being well represented in the courts and having the proper guidance in their business dealings.

Most of them are general practitioners, gaining most of their business from criminal and domestic relations law.

Paying Profession

The Nation's Capital has approximately 170 lawyers, a little legion of legal rights who protect the rights and guard the civil liberties of the city's citizens in the courts.

Based on the Bureau of Census' latest population figures of 285,000 colored people in Washington, this is one lawyer for every 1,676 persons.

This figure gives Washington more lawyers per capita than any other city.

Not all of these lawyers depend entirely on law practice for a livelihood. Some of them work in the Government service and practice law at sundown; others are engaged in businesses in which their law training is a distinct advantage.

Legal rules govern the personal force, interest and usury are but legal relations of all of our a few of the examples of how the law effects the every-day activities daily lives.

Buying and selling property, the requirements of a will, the requirements of a valid contract, marriage, di-to study law to get "equal justice

Attorneys Adding Much to Progress of Capital

Incomes Range From \$3,000 to Over \$20,000

Practically All Graduates of Howard, Terrell

WASHINGTON BY ART CARTER

It is a well-established legal maxim that ignorance of the law excuses no one. Yet it is usually not until people have had some unfortunate experience that the average man or woman discovers how completely ignorant they are of their rights and liabilities under the law.

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Another lucrative field is the real estate business which recently has attracted many lawyers on a full-time basis. Still others handle property matters in the normal course of their general practice.

Because of the lack of business in these particular fields, few of them have done much in corporate and patent law.

#### Civil Law Specialists

One outstanding firm, however, that of Houston, Houston, Hastie and Waddy, has been eminently successful in the civil rights cases, while another, the firm of Hayes, Howard and Cobb has won especial recognition in business law and tax matters.

A veteran practitioner, Augustus W. Gray, has devoted a great deal of his time to probate procedure and is recognized as an authority in the field, while John H. Wilson is regarded as outstanding in criminal law practice.

Of course, there are dozens of others who have won and are winning eminence in the various fields mentioned, but I have merely cited a few among the established lawyers, veterans in the field, to give a fair indication of what has been done in this direction in the legal profession.

#### Round-the-Clock Day

Lawyers work on a round-the-clock schedule. All of the Washington courts, with the exception of the United States Supreme Court which convenes at noon, open not later than 10 o'clock, and most attorneys who have cases to argue, file or defend, go to their offices before arriving at the courts.

This means they go to work around 8:30 or 9 a.m., handle the day's correspondence or refresh their memories on the case on hand, and sometimes acquire a case which is slated for the day's court calendar.

After court hearings, they go back to the office, clear the day's business and work out new cases, which involve research and a tremendous amount of brief writing—all of which takes time.

Moreover, the heavy dockets in most District courts necessitate many hours of waiting in the courts for a case to be called, and frequently several delays.

These delays make it necessary for the attorneys to go back and forth to the courts many times before the final settlement of a single case, often over a long period of time.

Besides this daily legal routine, the average Washington lawyer is a community leader and engaged in some type of civic, religious, business, industrial or educational endeavor at night.

Thirteen of the local group teach at the Robert H. Terrell Law School at least three nights a week, and a half dozen others do part-time teaching at Howard Uni-

versity's Law School during the day.

Thus, the average Washington lawyer is a busy man, always busy at some activity whether it is strictly legal or some other organizational pursuit which enhances his standing in the community.

A great deal of the lawyers' time is spent in law libraries, searching for old cases which serve as precedents for the briefs they write and for arguments for cases they are scheduled to present.

A few of the established law firms have law clerks who devote a major portion of their time to research, but the individual lawyers do most of this work themselves.

To become a lawyer in the District, a person has only to pass the District bar examination, but that is no easy task as the local bar exam is regarded in many quarters as the "toughest" in the country.

#### Bar Exam Tough

The most recent exam was passed by 15 local candidates, the highest number of any single previous year, the former average being 6.

To qualify for the examination, the law aspirant has to be a graduate of a recognized law school—a school which requires 60 hours (two years) of collegiate work as a prerequisite for admission.

Howard and the Robert H. Terrell are the 2 Washington schools where the vast majority of the District's legal representatives have been trained, though a few received their training at Frelinghuysen University.

Approximately a score of the local attorneys were admitted to the District bar through reciprocity from other States, where they had practiced for three to five years, depending on which State as the law requires.

#### 72 H. U. Grads Here

Since 1900, Howard University's Law School has had 234 of its 1332 graduates to pass the District bar and approximately 72 of them are engaged actively in local practice today. Many others, of course, went to other States to practice.

The Robert H. Terrell Law School, organized in August, 1931, and named in honor of the late Judge Terrell, has graduated 220, about half of whom are practicing in the District now.

#### Affiliated With Bar Groups

Most of the local attorneys are members of the Washington Bar Association, with William A. Powell, president, and George W. Peterson, secretary.

A good many of the WBA members and others not affiliated with the WBA are members of the National Bar Association, of which a Washington lawyer is president.

### 3 Negro Attorneys Seek D. C. Court Bench

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. — (NNPA) — The Washington Bar Association has elected attorney General Tom C. Clark the names of three of its members, George E. B. Hayes, a member of the law firm of Cobb, Howard & Hayes; Andrew J. Howard, a member of the law firm of Howard, Howard & Howard; and Hubert B. Pair, assistant corporation counsel.



## N. J. Man Named Prosecutor's Aide

CAMDEN, N.J.—For the first time in the history of Camden County, a colored man, Robert Burk Johnson, 45, has been appointed to a judicial office here. Mr. Johnson, who lives at 829 Kaigan Ave., here, was named assistant prosecutor of the county on last Thursday, by Mitchell Cohen, prosecutor.

The new assistant prosecutor is an attorney for the Camden NAACP and has been on the local board of education for the past 10 years.

### Lincoln U. Graduate

He was graduated at Lincoln University, Chester, Pa., in 1924, and also from the University of Pennsylvania's Law School in 1927. He was editor of the Pennsylvania Law Review during the last two years he attended the law school. Mr. Johnson is married to the former Miss Catherine Palmer, who, before their marriage, taught in the Camden schools.

## Wade McCree Admitted To Michigan Bar

DETROIT — Atty. Wade McCree, a World War II veteran, has recently been admitted to practice law in Michigan. McCree attended Boston Latin six years and McCosh school in Chicago. He



graduated ~~summa cum laude~~ from Fisk university where he was president of the student council and teaching assistant.

In 1948 he received a LL. B. degree from Harvard university having been awarded two complete scholarships from Harvard in addition to an Edwards Scholarship. He was also a member of King's Bench Society at Har-

vard. McCree was married to the former Doris McCrary in July, 1946. The couple has a daughter, Kathleen, who is 8 1-2 months old.

## Jamaica Gets First Female Lawyer Recently

KINGSTON, Jamaica—(ANP)—Jamaica's first woman lawyer, Miss Daisy Chambers, was admitted to practice in the supreme court of Jamaica here recently. Miss Chambers, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Chambers of St. Andrews, passed her final law examination last month, and was working with City Solicitor N. N. Nethersole.

Two other lawyers were admitted to practice with Miss Chambers. They are Donald Roy Bernard and Robert E. Stennett.

## Los Angeles Bar Group Votes 'No' To Negro Lawyers

SANTA BARBARA, Calif.—(NNPA)—An effort by a liberal bloc of California lawyers to the Los Angeles Bar Association to admit colored lawyers to its membership was defeated last Wednesday at the annual convention of the state bar of California.

The proposal, spearheaded by members of the Los Angeles and San Francisco chapters of the National Lawyers Guild, called for an amendment to the state law which would require the state bar to deny recognition of its session to any association practicing racial discrimination. The Los Angeles association's admitted policy is to exclude colored lawyers.

Rejecting for the third successive year, the effort to this end, the convention through its resolutions committee said it did not think that the state bar, of which all licensed lawyers belong automatically, should interfere in the affairs of local "voluntary" associations.

The Los Angeles association's exclusion of colored lawyers, the report of the resolutions committee piously pointed out, did not prevent their practicing and did not deny them representation at state bar gatherings since there were others recognized lawyer's groups in Los Angeles which admitted colored lawyers.

## State has new Negro lawyer

SAN FRANCISCO — California has a new Negro lawyer, Alpha L. Montgomery, only Negro admitted to the California State Bar last week after having passed the April examination. He was graduated from Fisk university and Howard law school.

## Blind Man Admitted To Connecticut Bar

NEW HAVEN, Conn.—(ANP)—A young blind graduate of the Yale University Law School, Earl L. Carl, 29, was admitted to the State bar last week and sworn in at the New Haven County Superior Court.

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## Attorney Temple Named Member Of Chicago Bar Ass'n.

Attorney William H. Temple, well-known member of the Illinois bar and veteran trial lawyer, this week was admitted to membership in the Chicago Bar Association.

Head of the defense counsel in the famous Hickman case, Attorney Temple is former legal advisor and director of the Chicago branch of the NAACP and past president of the Cook County Bar Association. He was appeal attorney for Selective Service of World War II.

In addition to positions he holds with several civic organizations, Attorney Temple is active in political affairs of the Second Ward. He is a senior partner of the law firm of Temple and Wimbish.

When informed that Attorney Temple had become a member of the Chicago Bar Association, Attorney Earl B. Dickerson, president of the National Lawyers Guild, said more Negro lawyers should apply for membership in the CBA, and those who are members should take an active interest in affairs of the organization.



ATTORNEY TEMPLE

## First Negro Becomes Assistant District Attorney

NEW YORK — (NNPA)—Westvelt A. Taylor, 43-year-old lawyer and civil engineer, last Tuesday became the first colored man to be appointed an assistant District Attorney in Queens County. The oath was administered to him by District Attorney Charles P. Sullivan.

A former attorney for the Office of Price Administration and still a lawyer for the New York City rent control office, Mr. Taylor resides in Jamaica with his wife and 15-year-old son. He is a graduate of the Fordham Law School and was admitted to the New York Bar in 1934. He is a Democrat and a member of the Inner Community Civic League, of which Dr. John A. Singleton is the president.

The swearing in ceremonies were witnessed by Mrs. Taylor and Dr. Singleton in the District Attorney's office.

## Negro Is Appointed Judge In Boston Juvenile Court

BOSTON, Dec. 15—Gov. Robert F. Bradford of Massachusetts today nominated Bruce G. Robinson, a Negro, as a special justice of the Boston Juvenile Court. Mr. Robinson is chief secretary of the Executive Council. He is

to succeed the late Justice Frank Leveroni. Mr. Robinson, who was born in Washington, D. C., forty-one years ago, was graduated from Williams College and the Boston University Law School.

At least one other Negro has been a judge in Massachusetts. In 1883 Gov. Benjamin F. Butler appointed George Lewis Ruffin a judge of the Charlestown Municipal Court. Judge Ruffin died in 1886.

Mr. Robinson is a former Assistant Attorney General, and also served as an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Boston. For five years he was a professor at Livingston College in North Carolina.

## Negro Judge Sits In Murder Trial

Associated Negro Press

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—For the first time in Indiana history, a Negro judge is presiding over a murder trial. Last week Judge Henry J. Richardson Jr., was selected to sit at the trial of Eugene L. Jackson, accused of second degree murder.

The case is being held in Marion Criminal Court No. 1 in the Marion County courthouse. The selection of Richardson was made by agreement with the prosecutor, the defense attorneys and the judge.

Judge Richardson was elected by the Indiana General Assembly in 1933 when he was not yet 30 years old, and served two terms. He is a graduate of the University of Indiana law school, and has practiced law in Indianapolis for 20 years.



## Dickerson Heads Lawyers Guild

*St. Louis, Mo.*  
CHICAGO (ANP) — Earl B. Dickerson was elected last week as president of the Chicago chapter of the National Lawyers Guild and Judge Wendell E. Green was elected as a vice president. The election was held at the group's annual meeting at the Hamilton hotel. *FR. 6-25-48*

Other officers are David Mazur and Vivian Wagner, vice presidents; David B. Rothstein, secretary; Robert J. Gorman, treasurer, and Judge William H. Holly, honorary president.

### DICKERSON HEADS GUILD

CHICAGO (ANP) — Earl B. Dickerson last week was elected president of the Chicago chapter of the National Lawyers Guild. *6-26-48*



# Name Negro Lawyer Assistant at Akron

AKRON, Ohio (ANP) — At-

torney Luther Johnson last week became the first Negro to be appointed to a major political office in this city when Mayor Charles

E. Slusser named him an assistant law director. Johnson, a Democrat, was appointed after consultations with Ray Bliss, county Republican chairman, and other G. O. P. leaders. Johnson will serve a two-year term. 1-3-48

The 38-year-old attorney has practiced here for a number of years and has been actively identified with the labor movement. At one time, he was financial secretary of Goodyear Aircraft local 826. UAW-CIO. He is vice president of the NAACP, chairman of the board of trustees of the Akron Community Service center, member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, Masons and Elks. 1-3-48

Johnson attended the University of Akron, Western Reserve university, and the Akron law school. At the latter institution, he was a classmate of Law Director Roy E. Browne and Ray Bliss. He and Browne were members of the university's debate team.

## Attorney Is Law Director For Akron, Ohio

Young Lawyer  
Identified With

### Labor Movement

AKRON, Ohio — (ANP) — Attorney Luther Johnson last week became the first Negro to be appointed to a major political office in this city when Mayor Charles E. Slusser named him an assistant law director. Johnson, a Democrat, was appointed after consultations with Ray Bliss, county Republican chairman and other GOP leaders. Johnson will serve a two-year term.

The 38 year old attorney has practiced here for a number of years and has been actively identified

with the labor movement. At one time, he was financial secretary of Goodyear Aircraft local 826 UAW-CIO. He is vice president of the NAACP, chairman of the board of trustees of the Akron Community Service Center, member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Masons and Elks.

Johnson attended the University of Akron, Western Reserve university, and the Akron law school. At the latter institution, he was a classmate of Law Director Roy E. Browne and Ray Bliss. He and Browne were members of the university's debate team.

Johnson is married and the father of three children. 1-4-48



**N. J. Negro becomes****city prosecutor**

*Los Angeles, Calif.*  
CAMDEN, N.J. — Atty. Robert Burke Johnson has become the first Negro in this county to hold a \$5,000-a-year position as second assistant prosecutor.

**Michigan town****elects Negro D.A.**

*Los Angeles, Calif.*  
BALDWIN, Mich. — This city has a Negro prosecutor, Percy Langster, 58-year-old Republican, winner over the white Republican incumbent in the last election. Aiding Langster's election was the vote from the Idlewild area, leading Negro resort in the country.

# Michigan County Gets First Colored Prosecutor

*Cleveland, Ohio*  
ELECTS FIRST NEGRO PROSECUTOR IN COUNTY  
EMBRACING IDLEWILD, MICHIGAN, RESORT

*Sat. 12-25-48*  
Prosecutor Elect Started Life As Shine-Boy And Porter

BALDIWN, Mich., Dec. 8—(Special)—One of the greatest historical events ever to take place in the north-country village of Lake County, will be witnessed here January 1st, when Percy J. Langster, 58-year-old Negro, takes office as the County's Prosecutor.

A former shoeshiner and pullman porter, who won a law degree at Duquesne University, Langster is the first of the Negro race ever to be elected to a County Prosecutor's office anywhere, according to American Bar Association records.

Langster, according to reports, campaigned with this declaration: "I stand as a symbol of tolerance in a community where Negroes and whites are sharing peacefully and profitably. As prosecutor I will deal impartially with all races and creeds. Were I to favor my own people they would be first to condemn me."

*Sat. 12-25-48*  
"The eyes of the nation are on me in this test."

Low speaking, and deep voiced, Langster has a sense of humor that has served him well in courtroom and campaign appearances. Many of his legal clients are white. This sparsely settled county of slightly more than 6,000 population has the largest Negro summer resort colony in America. Property owners and guests in the 36-square-mile area, known as Idlewild, come from every state in the union; also from Labrador and hawaii.

Idlewild was established in 1916, with the aid of Dr.

**Prosecutors**

Daniel Hale Williams of Chicago, internationally known Negro surgeon, as a place where Negroes could enjoy themselves without racial restrictions and prejudice.

Thus, Langster's election was no political miracle, in as much as 912 of the 3,600 registered voters in the county are Negroes and a scrambled political situation aroused resentment against the incumbent.

Langster took over a shoe shine stand in a barber shop at Oil City, Pa., his birthplace, at the age of 8. With the aid of judge and an attorney that had patronized his stand, he won a scholarship at Cornell University, but his funds ran out, and his quest for a law degree had to be postponed 15 years. In the interim, he sold real estate and insurance, and worked as a porter.

*Sat. 12-25-48*  
In 1924, with the encouragement of his mother and wife Jennie, who will serve as his secretary, Langster entered Duquesne. He gained his bachelor's degree in 1928, and his law degree in 1932, the first Negro to win double honors in the history of the University.

## Country's First Race Prosecutor

**Ready For Duty**

*Los Angeles, Calif.*  
BALDWIN, Mich. — (ANP) — Percy J. Langster is in the process of pulling together the little odds and ends of his private law practice here so that come January, he will make the big step in political history of becoming the first Negro prosecuting attorney in the United States.

The 58-year-old Langster was elected Lake county prosecutor on the Republican ticket in November with a 1938-988 victory over his independent running mate, Dr. Cooper.

*Sat. 12-18-48*  
Being "first" in a new job isn't too unusual to the attorney for he has come a long ways as the "first" in many incidents. For instance, he was the first Negro to receive a bachelor's degree and a law degree at Duquesne University. Langster has worked as a shoeshine boy, pullman porter, CCC camp adviser and army instructor.



# Willis Ward Leaps New Hurdle to Success

BY GERRY WEEKS

Free Press Staff Writer

A DOZEN years ago, the name of Willis Ward was posted in classrooms, alumni clubs and sports departments as that of one of the greatest natural athletes ever to compete.

He was hailed as the fastest timbertopper of them all, setting records in this and other track events that had amazing permanence in a field where no mark long remains the best.

Since then, Ward has leaped hurdles far higher than those of the maple boards and cinder tracks.

IN INDUSTRY, LAW and military service he has exerted his best efforts—and they are those of an ex-honor student at the University of Michigan.

He has sought to promote understanding between peoples mutually burdened with fear and prejudice, and to convince Negroes that there is progress in race relations and they may adjust their ambition sights accordingly.

Now an assistant prosecutor, Ward achieved respect and some measure of authority from the springboard of physical endowment and achievement.

Ward, as a nationally known secondary school track star, entered the University of Michigan in 1931 after graduating from Northwestern High School.

THERE PRE-EMINENCE at the sprint, broad-jump, high-jump and high hurdles was never endangered by the bugaboo of lesser muscle-men, ineligibility. And he was a standout end on the 1934 gridiron squad.

He was uniformly excellent in his studies, and this, together with an unassuming, agreeable personality, brought him membership in Sphinx, the hard-to-make literary society.

Perhaps this helped Ward believe that the way to success in a white man's world was not as rocky as some of his people believed.

WARD STARTED AT Ford during vacations in 1933, doing personnel work. He remained on the Ford payroll until 1941, when he went into military service.

As "understudy," he terms it, to Don Marshall, the Negro in charge of colored personnel in the "old regime," Ward was at

Willis Ward

tions and was in private practice when appointed an assistant prosecutor in 1946.

In the prosecutor's office, Ward's task has been that which he has lived through ever since conscious thought—adjusting the feelings and desires of the colored and the white toward eventual complete harmony.

He has served in homicide trials involving Negroes, and has handled civil rights cases under Michigan's anti-discrimination statutes.



WILLIS WARD

Ford through the rise of the CIO in 1936 and 1937.

Strenuous days followed in which racial tensions were heightened in the opposition to the organizing drive, and the strike and ultimate recognition of the union.

"Our job was to see that Negroes were placed according to their best skills, but at the same time not to hamper production by placing them where we knew there might be antagonism," he said. "It was a tough one."

SOON AFTER GOING TO work full-time at Ford's Ward had started studying law nights at the Detroit College of Law. He took his LLB degree in 1939.

He served in the Army almost three years, returning to industry as a first lieutenant.

Back at Ford, Ward saw the old guard there changing.

"I knew when the men who had been my sponsors started to be replaced I wouldn't last long," he said. "When I heard that Harry Bennett, the man who had brought me in, was to go, I 'beat the kick' by resigning."

AFTER A QUICK refresher period, he passed the bar examina-



# Mrs. L. Marion Poe Completely Exonerated By Three-Judge Court

**Journal & Guide**  
NEWPORT NEWS — Mrs. L. Marion Poe, one of the first colored women admitted to the practice of law in the South, who, it appears inadvertently became involved in charges of unprofessional conduct, which were heard in disbarment proceedings Friday was completely exonerated by a three-man court of judges Friday.

Henry Clay Midgett, who shared office space with Mrs. Poe but was not associated with her in practice, was suspended from practice for a year on two counts contained in briefs against him prepared by a district committee of the Virginia bar. **UNBLEMISHED REPUTATION** *Sat. 3-13-48*

Mrs. Poe, who was pictured by witnesses including Vice Mayor Harry Reyner as enjoying an unblemished reputation both professionally and in her private life, wept when the verdict was read. She was surrounded by friends who led her from the courtroom.

Mr. Midgett was adjudged guilty of irregularities in a divorce suit deposition, and of perpetrating fraud, against the Circuit Court of Newport News in setting forth certain facts in the deposition which were deemed unfounded.

## CHARACTER WITNESSES

Character witnesses for Mrs. Poe included some of this city's most outstanding citizens. They were, in addition to Vice Mayor Reyner, L. Leak Worham of Newport News City Council, H. Rexford Taylor, white attorney, and J. C. Allen, secretary of the Longshoremen's local. *Sat.*

Hearing the proceedings were Judge John L. Ingram of Hustings Court in Richmond, and Judge R. T. Wilson, of the Petersburg Hustings Court. *Sat. 3-13-48*

Judge Frank A. Kearney of Newport News and Elizabeth City County Circuit Court, had disqualified himself in the hearings on the grounds that the irregularities with which Mrs. Poe and Mr. Midgett were charged, had come out of his witness, declaring from the Newport News court. He was a stand that at the close of his

ing I'm guilty."

He had no definite plans about the future, he asserted, but has connections in South Dakota and might move there. He also said he might continue in business here with income tax and similar work not requiring that he be an attorney.

His attorneys were A. L. Bivins and Lorena Rainey. W. R. and R. Wendell Walker, attorneys, represented Mrs. Poe.

## Woman Admitted To Bar In U. S. Circuit Court

*24*  
COLUMBIA, S. C. (ANP) — Cassandra E. Maxwell, Orangeburg attorney and a member of the State Bar of South Carolina, was admitted to the bar of the United States Circuit Court here April 2. The entire group of 171 South Carolina lawyers, reported to be the largest class of attorneys ever to be admitted to practice before any court in the history of the United States, was presented at the Federal courthouse in Columbia to the U. S. Fourth District Court of Appeals. Miss Maxwell is a graduate of the Howard University Law School. She is an outstanding business woman, being the business manager for the widely known Maxwell's grocery, established and managed for years by her late father, John Maxwell.

## Mother of Two Girls Passes Bar Exams

*Black Dispatch*  
CHICAGO (ANP) — Mrs. Wesley Johnson who, as a student in John Marshall Law school, gave birth to two children, was notified that she had passed the state bar examination here last week.

A student at the law school since 1945, Mrs. Johnson took a two-week vacation from studies in the first year to give birth to Marie Christine. In 1946, she repeated by giving birth to Viola Cecile. Her husband, a painter, sat with the children on class nights. They also have a son, Harold, 15. *5-15-48 Sat*

She will receive her license to practice Monday, May 17, at Springfield, and then will engage in practice in her community.

## LOUISIANA GETS FIRST NEGRO WOMAN LAWYER

*Black Dispatch*  
NEW ORLEANS — Louisiana will get its first Negro woman lawyer this month, when Miss Marcia

Merlyn McDonald, of this city, graduates from the North Carolina College of Law, where she has been majoring in taxation and corporation. *Sat. 5-1-48*

## Friend Of Africa Margaret Wrong, Dies

*Black Dispatch*  
LONDON (ANP) — Miss Margaret Wrong, secretary of the International Committee on Christian Literature for Africa, died suddenly of heart failure at Fulu, Uganda, East Africa, April 11.

A Canadian, Miss Wrong was in East Africa in the interests of her extensive work in spreading literary and religious understanding there. She had recently visited the United States and has been at Tuskegee Institute, Howard and Atlanta Universities. She was widely acquainted, counting among her friends Dr. Channing Tobias, Dr. Emory Ross and Mr. and Mrs. Claude E. Barnett. *Sat. 5-1-48*



# Brilliant Achievements Of Pioneer Woman Atty. Told

*Daily World - Thurs 9-3-48*

Atty. Ellis Rates

"First" In Wide

Field Of Service

BY RUBY WEAVER ARNOLD

"I am just a symbol—an open door for the Negro woman who is preparing herself for her chosen vocation," said Attorney Georgia Jones Ellis, prominent Chicago barrister, in an interview during her brief stay in Atlanta attending the National Bar Association meeting.

Affable and charming, Atty. Ellis possesses a radiant and dynamic personality, and gives evidence of having lived an abundant life, in which she has mixed a career with marriage and succeeded with both.

## QUITE VERSATILE

Few women can boast of a versatility such as hers. Having worked as teacher, social worker, news reporter and columnist, she even finds time to be a "Good Democrat" with her many legal duties.

Native of St. Louis and graduate of Sumner High School and Sumner Teachers College, Atty. Ellis received her law degree from John Marshall Law School, Chicago, and did post graduate work at Northwestern.

This modern Florida has quite a few "firsts" in her achievement repertoire, and has reached an all-time high in legal circles. She is Assistant Corporation Counsel for the city of Chicago, and is not only the "first" but the "only" Negro woman holding such a position in the United States. She was the "first" Negro woman to serve as Judicial Assistant in the Department of Relations Court in Chicago, where she served with distinction and honor; she is the first woman to serve as attorney for the Third Ward Democratic Organization; she set up the first Infant Welfare Clinic in St. Louis (private institution, now city-maintained), and she is the "first" Negro woman lawyer to hold membership with the National Association of Women Lawyers (white) and the Women's Bar of Illinois. (white)

## ADMITTED TO SUPREME COURT

She was serving as Associate Counsel of Ellis and Westbrooks when she was admitted to the Supreme Court in 1941, when the famous Mitchell case involving discrimination against citizens in interstate transportation was heard by that tribunal.

She has served as attorney for the city of Chicago for the past

five years; is vice-president of the Cook County Bar Association; is Regional Director of the National Bar Association, and was recently elected to the Board at the Atlanta meeting.

Social work is Atty. Ellis' "first love," and she stated that her pursuit of law is just social work on a larger scale. Prior to her entry into law she served as social worker in the Municipal Court of Chicago, where she had to pass judgement on court cases. Approximately 10,000 cases per year were heard annually during 1925-30.



On her present job she has been successful in carrying cases to the Appellate Court. These cases involve the welfare of the city. "I haven't lost a case yet," she remarked. This record within the United States to hold such a position. Atty. Ellis attended the National Bar Association meeting which was held in Atlanta Sept. 16-18.

**MAKES LEGAL HISTORY**—Attorney Georgia Jones Ellis is Assistant Corporation Counsel of Chicago, and has the distinction of being the only Negro woman in the United States to hold such a position. Atty. Ellis attended the National Bar Association meeting which was held in Atlanta Sept. 16-18.

## STAUNCH DEMOCRAT

Atty. Ellis is a staunch Democrat and at present is actively engaged

in raising the Million Dollar Fund pledged by Negroes of America for Truman, sponsored by Congressman Dawson and State Senator C. C. Wimbush, Chicago leaders and and former Georgians.

She has made radio appearances over WAAF speaking on Civil Rights.

Journalism had its special appeal to her also. She wrote for the Chicago Defender, both as columnist and reporter, and for ten years was affiliated with the Chicago Whip, writing under the caption, Booster's Column. Turning to law after her husband died, this noted woman felt that it would give more economic security for her children.

Her children are Mrs. Harriett J. Ballinger, wife of Dr. Raymond J. Ballinger, Massillon, Ohio; Frank McClelland Jones, Field Agent of Seagram Corporation and Joel H. Jones, Chicago.

This busy lady, through some keen ingenuity, finds time for club work with the following organizations: National Council of Negro Women, National Association of Colored Women's Clubs in Chicago and state of Illinois. Committee on Civil Rights, Board of Urban League and the Mayor's Committee on Human Welfare.

Her hobby is gardening with a specialty for flowers. Her summer home, Sunset Hills, is her laboratory for perfecting this hobby.

In private life she is Mrs. Raymond Wesley Johns.

Her impressions of the Gate City, this incidentally was her very first trip, were so favorable that she stayed over through Wednesday. She was able to visit the local courts with Col. Walden. Her friend, Atty. Isadora Letcher remained over with her.



# Sara Pelham Speaks, Disbarred Lawyer Not Alarmed By Ruling Of The Appellate Division

Sat. 7-10-48

By CONRAD CLARK

"It is nothing to be too much excited about," Mrs. Sarah Pelham Speaks said to this writer on Saturday, when she was asked about her disbarment by the Appellate Division on Thursday.

With the exception of this lone remark, Mrs. Speaks said, "no comment, but added that her case was being taken up by her attorney, Judge John R. Davies, 11 East 44th street, and that she had received many telephone calls from friends that showed quite an interest in the case." Sat. 7-10-48

The proceeding against Mrs. Speaks, who has been a civic and political leader for more than twenty years, was brought against her by the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, charging her with "failure to perform legal services for which she had been paid." The New Age

The court in details said: "The record establishes a course of conduct which no member of the bar should pursue and respondent should not be allowed to continue to practice as a member of an honorable profession."

"The referee also found her guilty of failing to perform legal services for which she had been retained and paid; of making false representations with respect to the status of various matters in which the Congressional seat in the 22nd. to return certain fees received in some matters." N.Y. N.Y.

A graduate of the University of Michigan and the New York University Law School, Mrs. Speaks in 1944 became the first Negro of her sex to be nominated by a major party for Congress.

In that year she was nominated by the Republicans to run against Rev. Adam Clayton Powell for the Congressional seat in the 22nd. District, but lost out to her Democratic opponent. N.Y. N.Y.

A few weeks ago, Mrs. Speaks made the headlines of the dailies and weeklies when she accused lo-

cal police officers of graft, and many believe that her "expose" helped in her "disbarment."

A member of the Square Deal Republican Club, headed by Harold Burton, local Republican District leader who was given the nomination to run against Powell this year, the disbarred attorney is married and resides with her husband, Dr. F. Douglas Speaks at 2588 Seventh avenue.

## WOMAN IS DISBARRED

Attorney Once a Congressional Candidate in Harlem

(Mrs. Sarah Pelham Speaks, attorney and one-time Republican Congressional candidate in the Twenty-second Assembly District in Harlem, was disbarred yesterday by the Appellate Division.

In disbarring the attorney the Court said:

"The record establishes a course of conduct which no member of the bar should pursue and respondent should not be allowed to continue to practice as a member of an honorable profession."

"The Referee also found her guilty of failing to perform legal services for which she had been retained and paid; of making false representations with respect to the status of various matters in which she had been retained, and failing to return certain fees received in some of such matters."

Although not detailed in the opinion, Mrs. Speaks' identity was confirmed by the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, which instituted the proceedings. The association gave her address as 2588 Seventh Avenue and said she was admitted to the Bar Dec. 14, 1936.

**HARLEM LAWYERS PASS BAR EXAMS**

Joseph A. Eaily, secretary to Judge Francis E. Rivers, passed the New York Bar examination and was admitted to practice law. Eaily is a grad of Lincoln and the Brooklyn School of law. Pauli Murray, noted Pertia, also made the list and is already a member of the bar exam. Miss Murray holds her master's in law from the University of California.

*Daily World*  
NOTED WOMAN ATTORNEY SCORES AGAIN Mrs. Sara Pelham Speaks, modern "Portia" of her day whose starting charges bares alleged shake-downs of Harlem Underwood vice and over-lords of the policy 'numbers' racket, that reached loud repercussions.

The policy fraud probes, the most important cause of the gambling war grew out of the courageous and fearless accusation made by Mrs. Speaks. Atlanta, Ga.

Regardless of the fact that she has been threatened, with bodily harm; and molestation of her seven year old son, she declared she paid no attention to the anonymous phone calls. She has been offered police protection, but insisted she thought it unnecessary. 5-29-48

**Woman  
New York  
GOP Leader  
Disbarred**  
Sat. 7-2-48



retained and paid; of making false representations with respect to the status of various matters in which she had been retained; and failing to return certain fees received in some of such matters."

Mrs. Speaks, who is 44, was graduated from the University of Michigan and, in 1936, from New York University Law School. In 1944, the first Negro woman ever



Mrs. Sara Pelham Speaks  
Disbarred

nominated by a major party for Congress, she was the Republican candidate against the Rev. Adam Clayton Powell in the 22d District, but lost.

She and her husband, Dr. F. Douglas Speaks, a physician, live at 2588 Seventh Ave.

## Atty. Sara Speaks' Son Gets Police Guard

(By CARL DUNBAR LAWRENCE)

Sara Pelham Speaks' only child, Douglas, 51, was placed under a 24-hour police guard this week following reports of a threat that her eight-year-old son would be kidnapped. "I didn't keep her mouth shut."

Attorney Speaks, whose verbal blast at alleged graft-taking by plainclothesmen assigned to the 10th Division caused Commissioner of Investigation Murtagh and Assistant Chief Inspector Fristensky to order separate probes, was threatened herself last week.

At that time, police authorities offer-

"Mrs. Speaks believes that the telephone threats are probably the work of a crank but we cannot take chances

Cop Answers Phone The first detective sent to Mrs. Speaks' home in the Dunbar Apartment was George Webber, a veteran

of nearly 25 years in the Police Department. Webber was assigned by Lieut. Weldon, of the W. 135th Street Police Station, who explained:

"I will not accept protection from rants. Their excuse was that they were looking for number runners. I detest of nearly 25 years in the Police Department. Webber was assigned by Lieut. Weldon, of the W. 135th Street Police Station, who explained:

declined saying: "I will not accept protection from rants. Their excuse was that they were looking for number runners. I detest of nearly 25 years in the Police Department. Webber was assigned by Lieut. Weldon, of the W. 135th Street Police Station, who explained:

July 5-20-48



# Sara Pelham Speaks, Disbarred Lawyer Not Alarmed By Ruling Of The Appellate Division

By CONRAD CLARK

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The proceeding against Mrs. Speaks, who has been a civic and political leader for more than twenty years, was brought against her by the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, charging her with "failure to perform legal services for which she had been paid."

The court in details said: "The record establishes a course of conduct which no member of the bar should pursue and respondent should not be allowed to continue to practice as a member of an honorable profession."

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helped in her "disbarment."

A member of the Square Deal Republican Club, headed by Harold Burton, local Republican District leader who was given the nomination to run against Powell this year, the disbarred attorney is married and resides with her husband, Dr. F. Douglas Speaks, at 2588 Seventh avenue.



# Mrs. Sara Pelham Speaks

## Disbarred In New York City

### Misconduct In

### Dealings Charged; Exposed Rackets

NEW YORK— (NNPA) — Mrs. Sara Pelham Speaks, socialite and Harlem lawyer, was disbarred last Thursday by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court for alleged misconduct in dealings with her clients. 7-11-48

The disbarment proceedings were brought against her by the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. Identity of the clients for and with whom Mrs. Speaks had her allegedly unethical dealings, was not disclosed.

In its findings Mrs. Speaks, the Appellate Division declared: "The record established a course of conduct which no member of the bar should pursue and respondent should not be allowed to practice as a member of an honorable profession."

"The respondent has been found guilty of entirely neglecting one matter entrusted to her and as a result the claim was barred by lapse of time."

### FOUND GUILTY

"The referee also found her guilty of failing to perform legal services for which she had been retained and paid; of making false representations with respect to the status of various matters in which she had been retained; and failing to retain certain fees received in some of such matters."

At her home in the Dunbar Apartments, 2588 7th Ave., Mrs. Speaks last Thursday night declared that she was innocent of the charges preferred against her by the bar association and said she would petition the Appellate Division for reargument of her case. If her motion is denied, she said she could still appeal to the State Court of Appeals.

A native of Washington, Mrs. Speaks has a prominent family background. Her father was the late Robert A. Pelham, who for a long number of years was chief of

a unit in the Census Bureau. Her mother, the late Mrs. Gabrielle Pelham, was secretary of the Community Center Department.

### VARIED ACTIVITY

Mrs. Speaks, the wife of Dr. Douglas Speaks, has taught school and engaged in social work, newspaper work and politics. After her graduation from the University of Michigan, she taught at South Carolina State College, Orangeburg, S. C. Later she was associated with her father in Washington in the operation of the capital News Service.

She was admitted to the bar on December 1, 1936, after receiving her law degree from New York University. She was the Republican candidate for Congress from 22nd district in 19 and was defeated in general election by the Rev. Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.

Recently, she was made sensational charges of corruption and misconduct against Harlem police. She accused them of raiding homes without warrants, "planting" number slips on persons under arrest, and taking money and valuables from apartments which they had raided. 7-11-48

As a result of her charges, several persons came forward with information concerning the alleged misconduct of Harlem police, and one man testified that he had paid policemen \$1,500 a month for protection in operating gambling games in his establishment.

She said she was threatened with bodily harm in three telephone calls she received, but she refused to withdraw her charges. She also said her adopted son's life was threatened, and police prevailed upon Mrs. Speaks to accept a police bodyguard.

### Police Guard Son Of Atty. Speaks

NEW YORK — A threat to kidnap her 11-year-old son is said to be the latest attempt here to intimidate Sara Pelham Speaks, noted woman attorney and one-time GOP candidate for Congress who has launched a one-woman crusade against police brutality and protection of numbers racketeers. 5-15-48

A 24-hour guard of detectives

was thrown quickly around the Speaks' home last week-end following a phone warning of a "snatch" of Douglas Speaks Jr.

## Sara Opens Fight To Regain Rights To Practice Law

Mrs. Sarah Pelham Speaks' fight for the right to practice law again formally got underway this week with Atty. David Edwards, an active figure in the Harlem Lawyers Association, leading the way and promising to file papers requesting that the case be reopened for additional argument.

Edwards spent last weekend studying details of his plans, indicated that he would be ready to initiate the fight beginning Friday.

However, Mrs. Speaks planned to leave the city at that time to join her husband, Dr. F. Douglas Speaks, who is vacationing on his Ohio farm near Cincinnati.

Earlier this week, Mrs. Speaks revealed, she declined to become a candidate for the State Senate in the 23rd District where Grand Exalted J. Finley Wilson polled more than 50,000 votes running on Gov. Dewey's ticket four years ago.

When Mrs. Speaks declined to run, it was learned, GOP leaders of the Assembly districts involved decided to designate a white candidate to run against the Democratic incumbent, Senator Joseph Zaretski.



## New Yorker In Housing Post

NEW YORK — (ANP) — A Negro woman attorney was sworn in last week as the new deputy commissioner of housing by Mayor O'Dwyer. She is Mrs. Ruth Whaley, the first Negro woman to be admitted to the New York State bar.

As deputy housing commissioner she will receive a salary of \$7,500 a year. She was sworn into office along with the new license commissioner and the commissioner of water supply, gas and electricity. Friday, *Atlanta, Ga.*

Born in Goldsboro, Mrs. Whaley was admitted to the state bar in 1925. She has been active in Democratic politics since 1924. A graduate of Fordham law school and Livingston college in Salisbury, N. C., she was a city school teacher at one time. *Tus., 7-20-48*

She belongs to a number of business and legal associations.

Attending the ceremonies was C. Mott Shavers, Democratic leader of the 14th Assembly district, and sponsor of Mrs. Whaley for her present post.

She gained her office after her predecessor, J. Raymond Jones, was forced to resign following a Tammany quarrel.

## Mrs. Whaley Gets N.Y. Housing Post

NEW YORK — (NNPA) — Mrs. Ruth Whitehead Whaley, attorney and mother of two children, was named last Friday by Mayor William O'Dwyer to fill the \$7,850 post of Deputy Commissioner of Housing left vacant by the resignation of J. Raymond Jones, Harlem political boss.

Jones resigned last week at Mayor O'Dwyer's request after he had differed with the mayor over the selection of a candidate for the position of Surrogate of New York County — one of the most treasured political plums here.

### Aided Mayor in 1941

A campaign manager for Mr. O'Dwyer in the 1941 mayoralty race, Mrs. Whaley, a widow, was born in Goldsboro, N.C., and is the daughter of the late Prof. and Mrs. C. A. Whitehead, both teachers in the Tar Heel State for more than 40 years.

She was the first colored woman admitted to the bar in North Caro-

lina and the first to engage in the active practice of law in the State of New York. *7-17-48*

### Career Cited

She received her A.B. degree from Livingston College, Salisbury, N.C., and later graduated cum laude from the Fordham University Law School where she received her LL.B. degree.

A Democrat since 1924, when she began her practice here, Mrs. Whaley is an active member of the New York County Democratic Speakers' Bureau of which she was vice chairman in 1932.

### Active Civic Worker

She was the first president of the Negro Business and Professional Women's Club, here, and is counsel for the local Federation of Colored Women's Clubs.

Mrs. Whaley holds membership in Mother Zion AME Church, the National Council of Negro Women, and the National Women's Lawyers' Association.

### Post Tribute to Women

Interviewed at her Harlem apartment last Saturday, she described her appointment as "another step in the fuller integration of colored women into the affairs of government," and added:

"I think that the person is unimportant except that the woman has an obligation to move in the new area in which she finds herself in such a manner that other colored women may not be retarded by her failure to act, or by her inept actions."

Mrs. Whaley's children are Herman 21, a war veteran and a student at New York University, and Ruth, 14, a recent graduate of St. Joseph's Parochial School.

Her husband, the late Herman S. Whaley, was once connected with the New York State Labor Department. *7-19-48*

## North Carolina Born Woman Lawyer Gets Post N.Y. City

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A campaign manager for Mayor O'Dwyer in the 1941 mayoralty race, Mrs. Whaley, a widow, was born in Goldsboro, N. C., and is the daughter of the late Professor and Mrs. C. A. Whitehead, both

teachers in North Carolina more than forty years. *7-21-48*

An attorney, she was the first colored woman admitted to the bar in North Carolina and the first to engage in the active practice of law in New York State.

She received her A.B. from Livingston College, and later graduated "cum laude" from the Fordham Law School.

A Democrat since 1924, Mrs. Whaley has practiced law in New York since 1924 and is an active member of the New York County Democratic Speakers' Bureau and in 1932 was vice chairman of that organization.

### CHURCH MEMBER

A member of the Mother Zion AME Church, she was the first president of the Negro Business and Professional Women's Club in

New York City, and is a member of the National Women's Lawyers Association. *7-31-48*

Mrs. Whaley viewed her appointment as "another step in the fuller integration of Negro women into the affairs of government."

"I think that the person is unimportant," she declared, "except that the woman has an obligation to move in the new area in which she finds herself in such a manner that other Negro women may not be retarded by her failure to act, or by her inept actions."

Mrs. Whaley has two children, Herman 21, a war veteran and a student at New York University, and Ruth, 14, who has just finished St. Joseph's Parochial School.

## Women's Groups Combine To Honor Mrs. Ruth W. Whaley

Mrs. Ruth Whitehead Whaley, recently appointed executive assistant to the New York City Commissioner of Public Welfare, will be honored at an afternoon reception and tea sponsored by a committee of women representing several important women's organizations of the city on Wednesday, September 29, from 4 to 7 o'clock, at the Women's City Club, New Weston Hotel, Madison Ave., and 50th St., it was announced today by Mrs. Sadye C. Williams, member, Women's Council New York State Department of Commerce, who is chairman of the Sponsoring Committee. Mrs. Willie F. Parris is Chairman of the Reception Committee.

Mrs. Whaley, practicing attorney in New York City for the past twenty years, is active in a number of civic organizations and in political circles. She is a gifted public speaker and lecturer, and



MRS. RUTH W. WHALEY has traveled extensively throughout the nation.

### Honor Student

Graduated with honors from Livingston College, Salisbury, she is reported to be the first woman to be graduated from Fordham University Law School, from which she received the L. L. B. degree, cum laude. Mrs. Whaley is the mother of two children, Herman, a student at New York University Law School, and Ruth, a student at Cathedral High School.

Members of the Sponsoring Committee, of which Mrs. Kate Hicks is treasurer, who represent the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. are: Mrs. Florence Hill, National President; Mrs. Ruth A. Handy, Past National President; Mrs. Delolah Harris, President, Brooklyn Club; Mrs. Louise M. Francis, President, New York Club; and Mrs. Grace Dodd, President, New Haven Club.

Also, the National Council of Negro Women is represented by: Mrs. Gertrude Robinson, President of Manhattan Council; Mrs. Marjorie Jackson, President, Brooklyn Council.

Other sponsors are: Mrs. H. H. Mays, Basileus, New York Chapter Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority; Mrs. Lillian D. Johnson of Livingston College Alumni Association; Mrs. Minnie D. Henley, President of the Board of Auxiliaries of Mother Zion Church; and Mrs. Carrie Hill, of the Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. Also on the Sponsoring Committee are many church, political and civic leaders, among whom are Rev. Oliver W. Carrington, pastor of the First A. M. E. Zion Church; Honorable J. Raymond Jones, Deputy Commissioner of Housing; Honorable C. Mott Shavers, Honorable Herbert Bruce; Mrs. Hulan Jack; Mrs. Ruth Logan Roberts, Board Member, New York State Department of Social Welfare; Mrs. Anne B. Steele; and Mrs. Lucille E. Chance, attorney.

Mrs. Roberts, Attorney Chance, and Justice James S. Watson will bring greetings.



# Ruth Whaley Addresses Sigmata At Annual Boule

CLEVELAND, Ohio—Highlight of the 19th annual boule of the Sigma Gamma Rho sorority held here last week was the address delivered by Atty. Ruth Whitehead Whaley at the public meeting held at St. James AME church. Her subject was "Reserve Room for Youth In Tomorrow's World."

Mrs. Whaley is the first Negro woman to be admitted to the bar in North Carolina, among the first to practice law in New York and recently smashed all precedent by her appointment to the municipal cabinet of New York's Mayor O'Dwyer.

Delegates from all over the country, representing 35 undergraduate chapters and 47 graduate chapters, made the Phyllis Wheatley association 4450 Cedar ave., their headquarters.

In connection with the national Sigma project which has established youth centers, teen towns and similiar organizations for combatting juvenile delinquency, throughout the country, a round table discussion on "Is Our Preparation Adequate?" was held.

Social affairs included: a sport dance under sponsorship of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity; a coffee hour by the Delta Sigma Theta sorority; a garden party and musicale, Alpha Kappa Alpha; cocktail party, Omega Psi Phi fraternity; two sight-seeing tours conducted by the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity and an inter-fraternal formal dance under the sponsorship of the Sigma sorority.

Basilei of the hostess Sigma chapters are Soror Edna Pearley, Alpha Lambda Sigma and Soror Clyone Gleason, Zeta.

Before election, national officers of the group were: Ethel Ross Smith, Chicago, grand basileus; Sallie Parham, St. Louis, 1st anti-basileus; Edith P. Binn, Chicago, grand grammateus; Atla Benning, Birmingham, grand synatakes and Lottie M. Hamilton, Fort Worth, Texas, national project chairman.